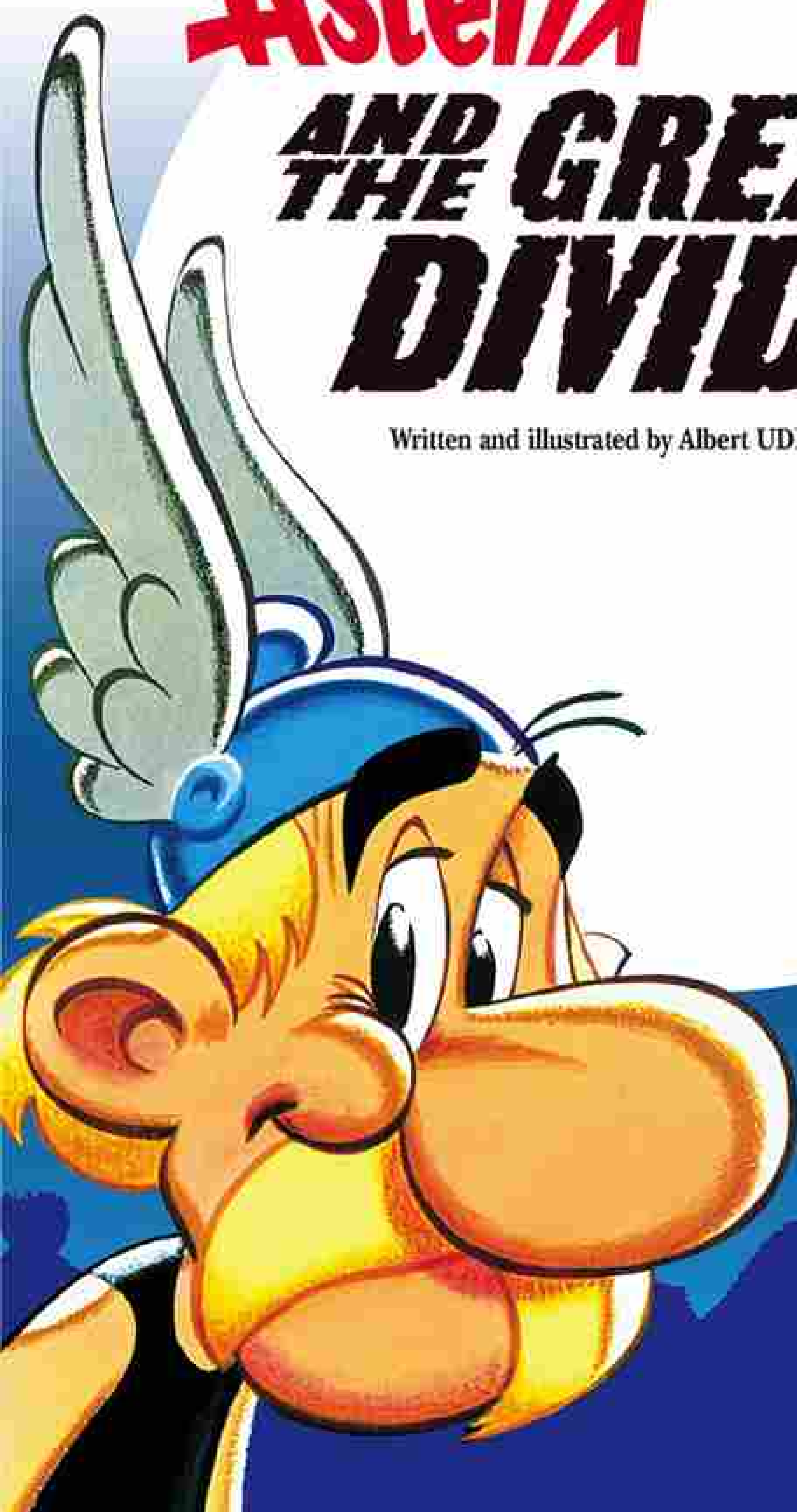


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Asterix

**AND
THE GREAT
DIVIDE**

Written and illustrated by Albert UDERZO



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An Asterix Adventure

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AN ORION CHILDREN'S EBOOK

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THE YEAR IS 50 BC. GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED BY THE ROMANS. WELL, NOT ENTIRELY ... ONE SMALL VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GAULS STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. AND LIFE IS NOT EASY FOR THE ROMAN LEGIONARIES WHO GARRISON THE FORTIFIED CAMPS OF TOTORUM, AQUARIUM, LAUDANUM AND COMPENDIUM ...



ASTERIX, THE HERO OF THESE ADVENTURES. A SHREWD, CUNNING LITTLE WARRIOR, ALL PERILOUS MISSIONS ARE IMMEDIATELY ENTRUSTED TO HIM. ASTERIX GETS HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION BREWED BY THE DRUID GETAFIX . . .



OBELIX, ASTERIX'S INSEPARABLE FRIEND. A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, ADDICTED TO WILD BOAR. OBELIX IS ALWAYS READY TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO OFF ON A NEW ADVENTURE WITH ASTERIX - SO LONG AS THERE'S WILD BOAR TO EAT, AND PLENTY OF FIGHTING. HIS CONSTANT COMPANION IS DOGMATIX, THE ONLY KNOWN CANINE ECOLOGIST, WHO HOWLS WITH DESPAIR WHEN A TREE IS CUT DOWN.



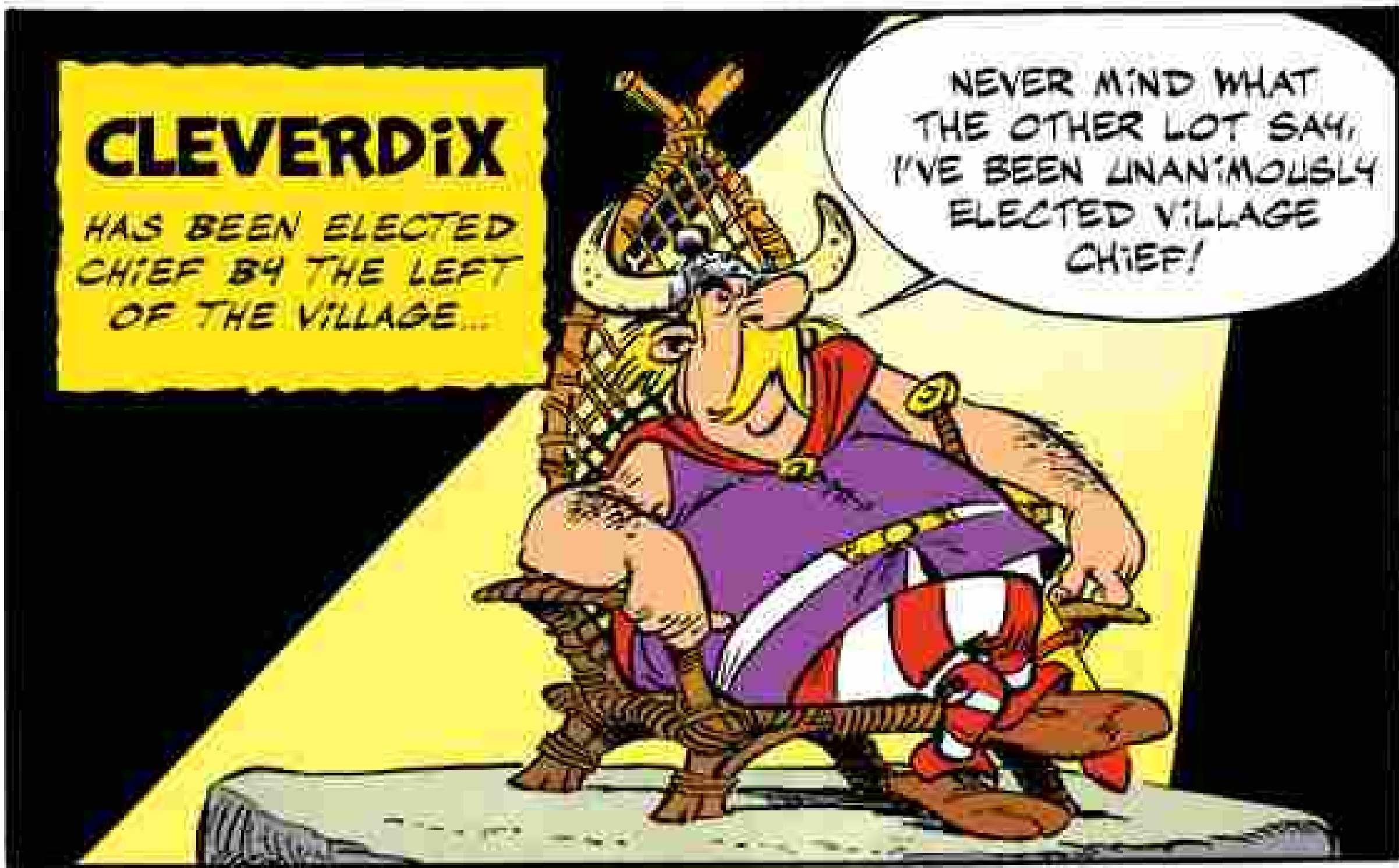
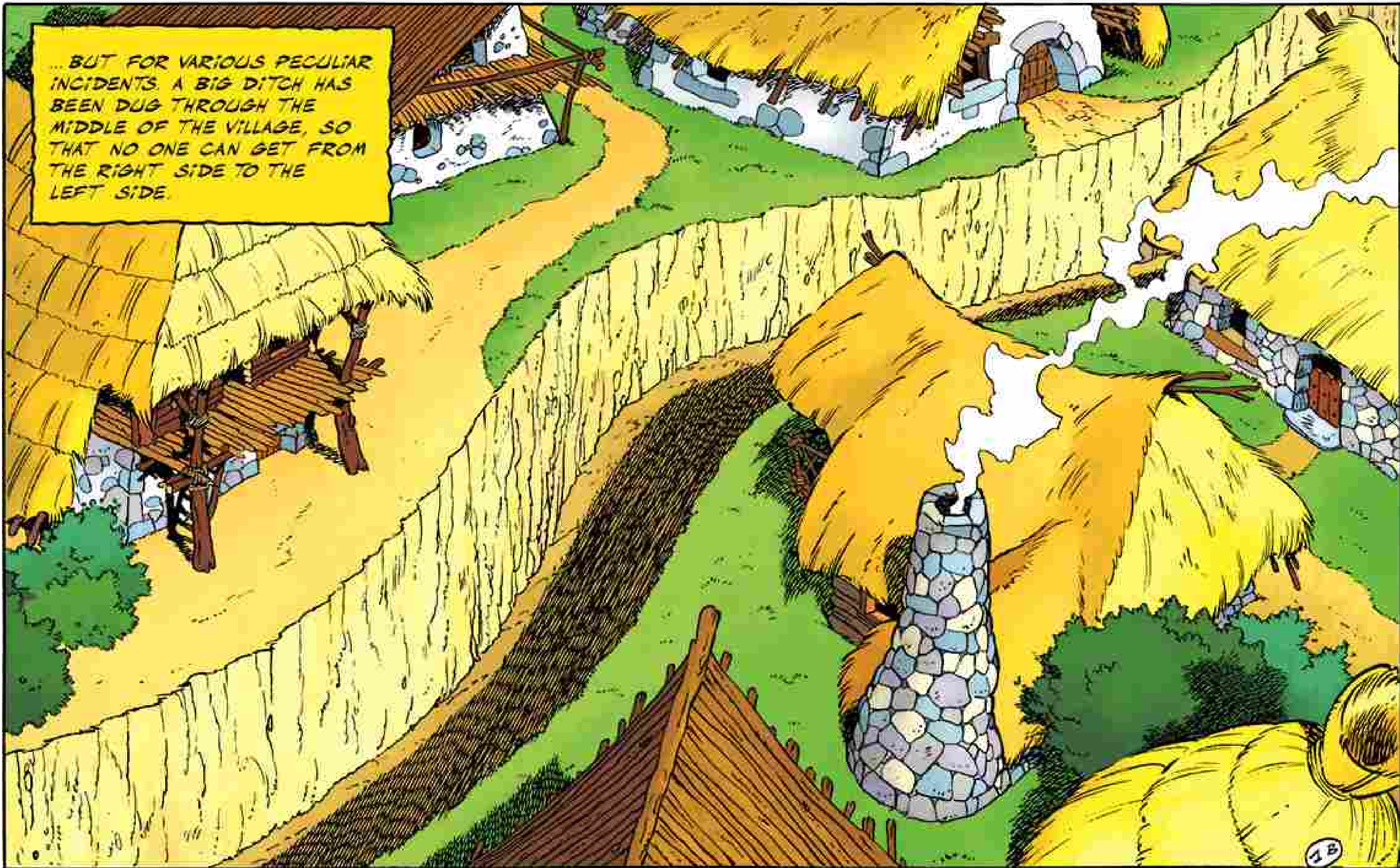
GETAFIX, THE VENERABLE VILLAGE DRUID, GATHERS MISTLETOE AND BREWS MAGIC POTIONS. HIS SPECIALITY IS THE POTION WHICH GIVES THE DRINKER SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. BUT GETAFIX ALSO HAS OTHER RECIPES UP HIS SLEEVE . . .

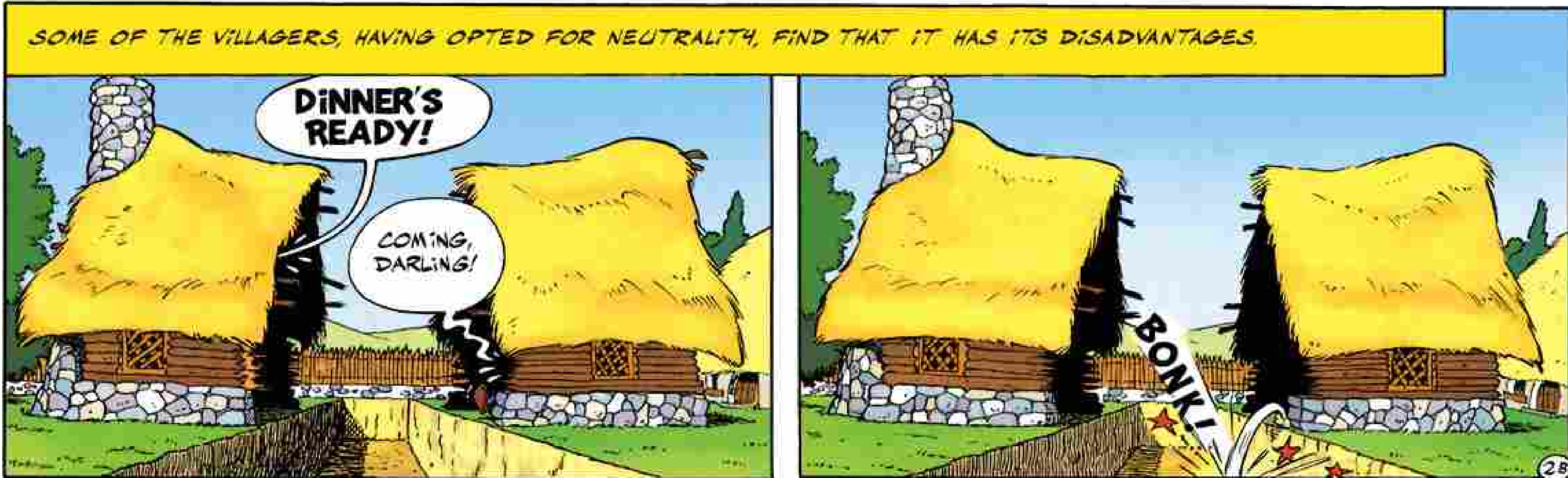
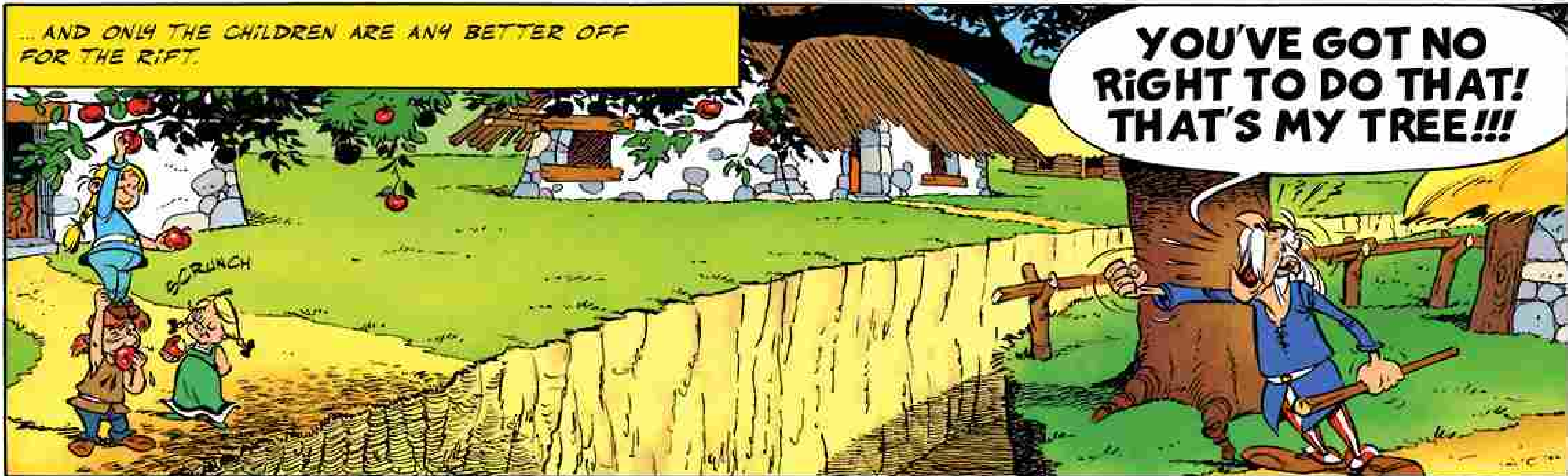
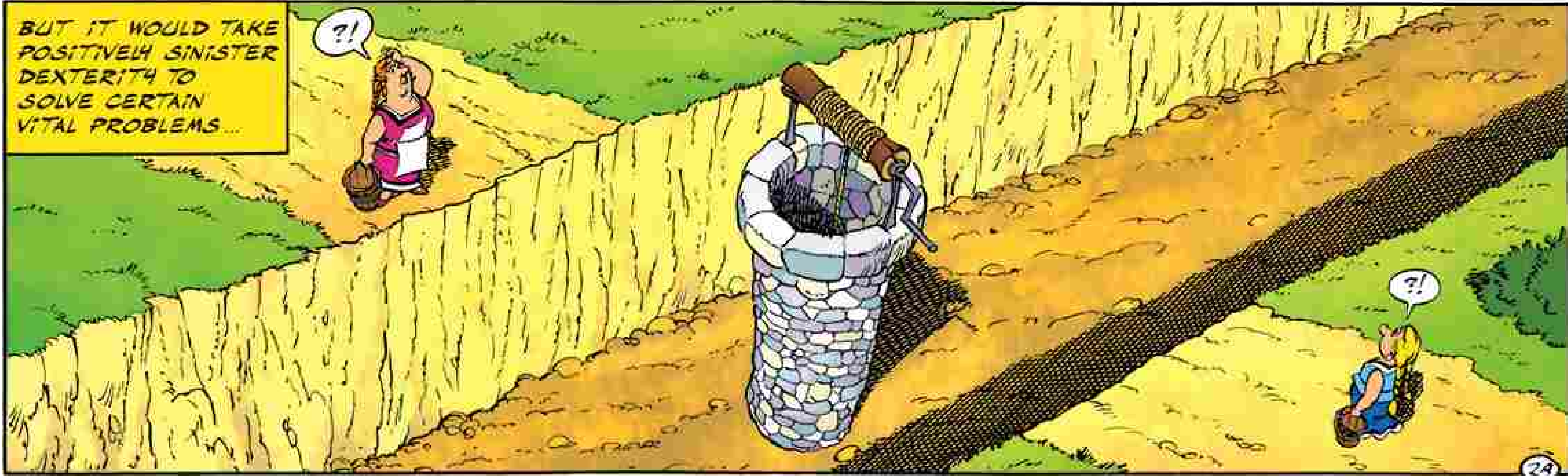
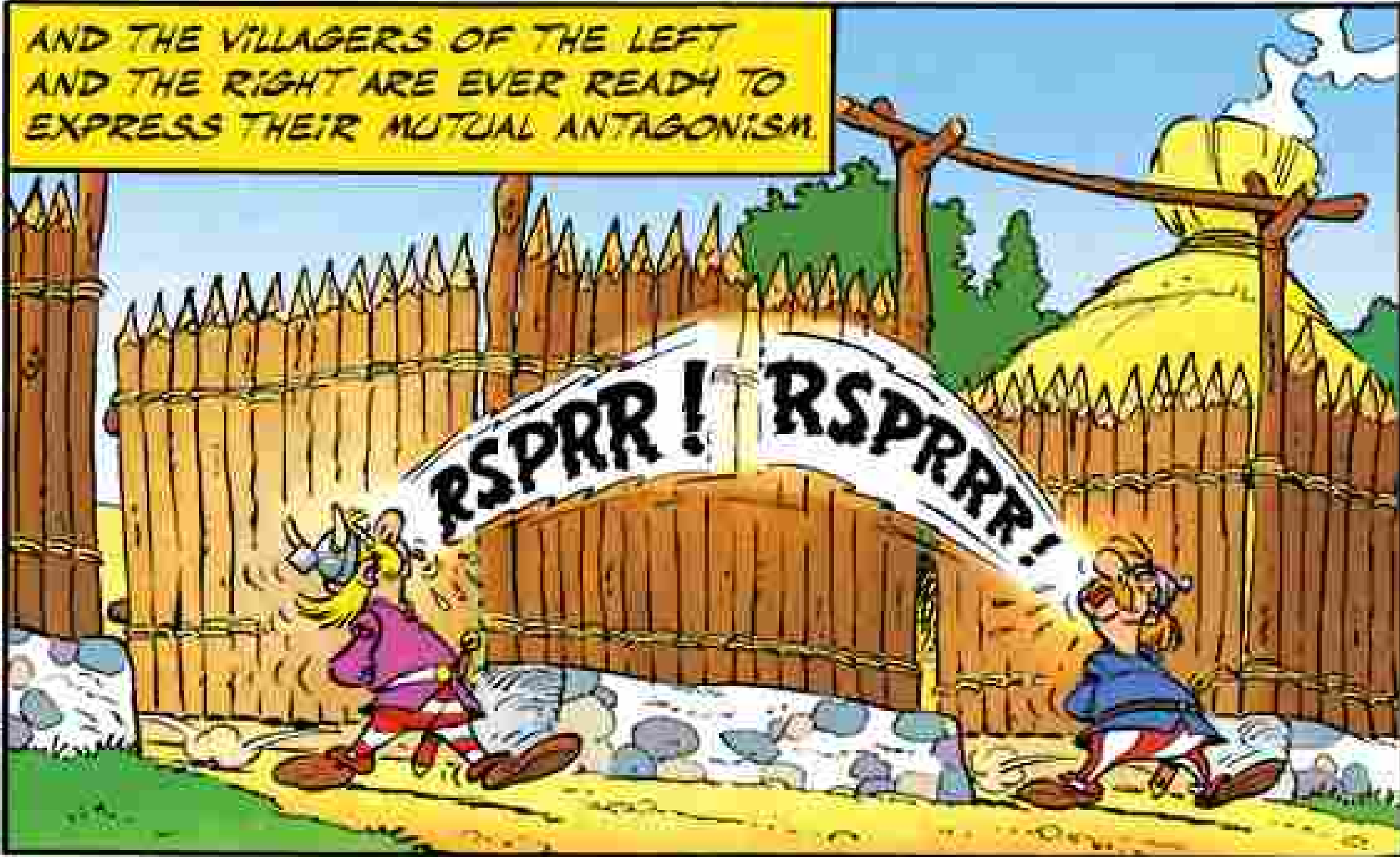
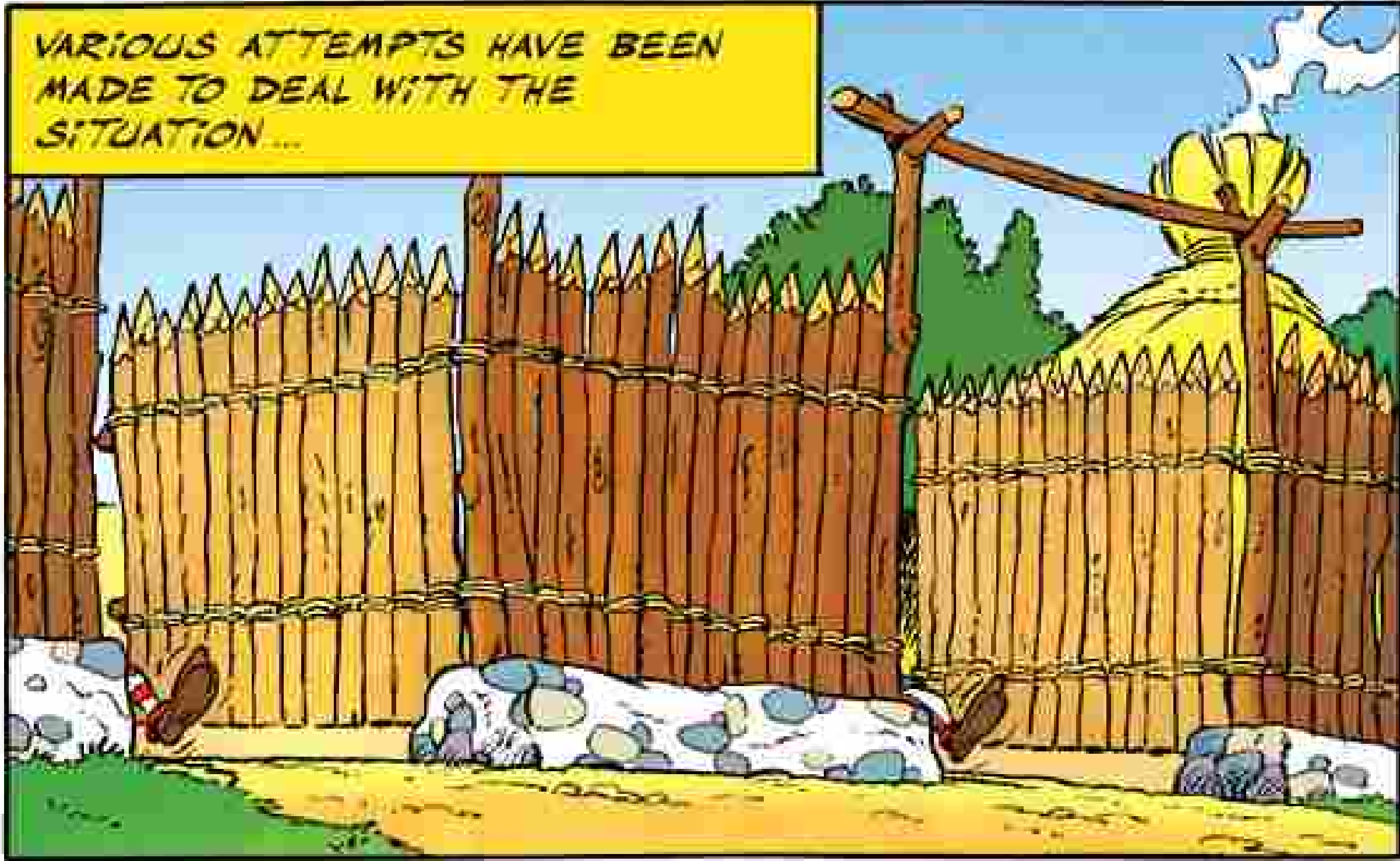


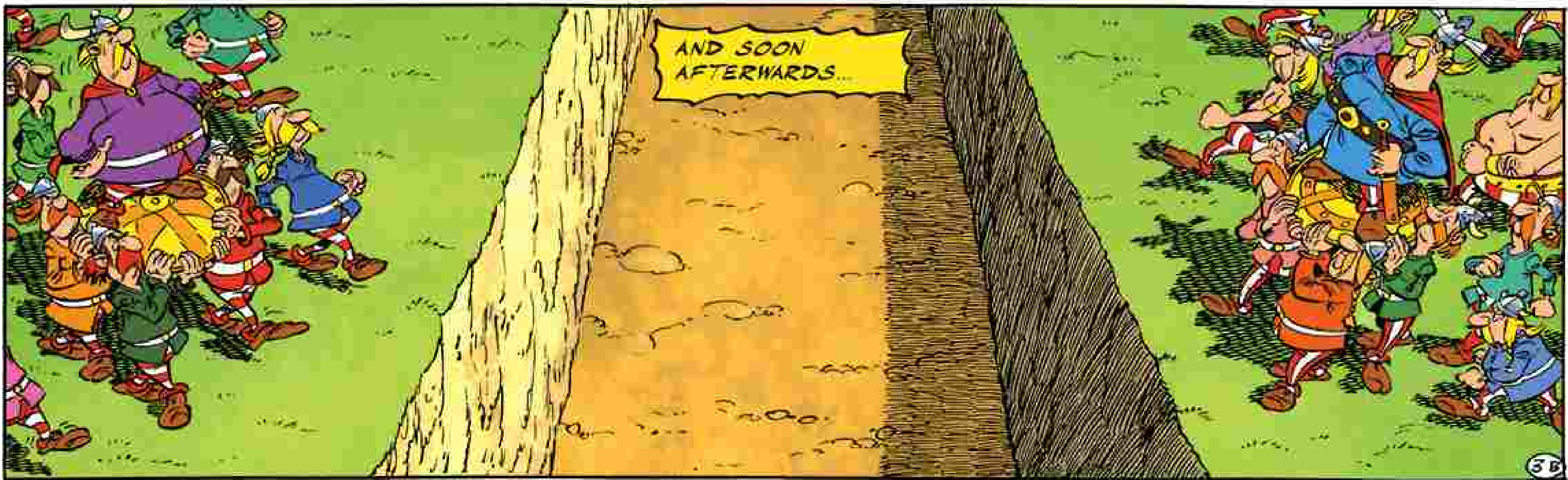
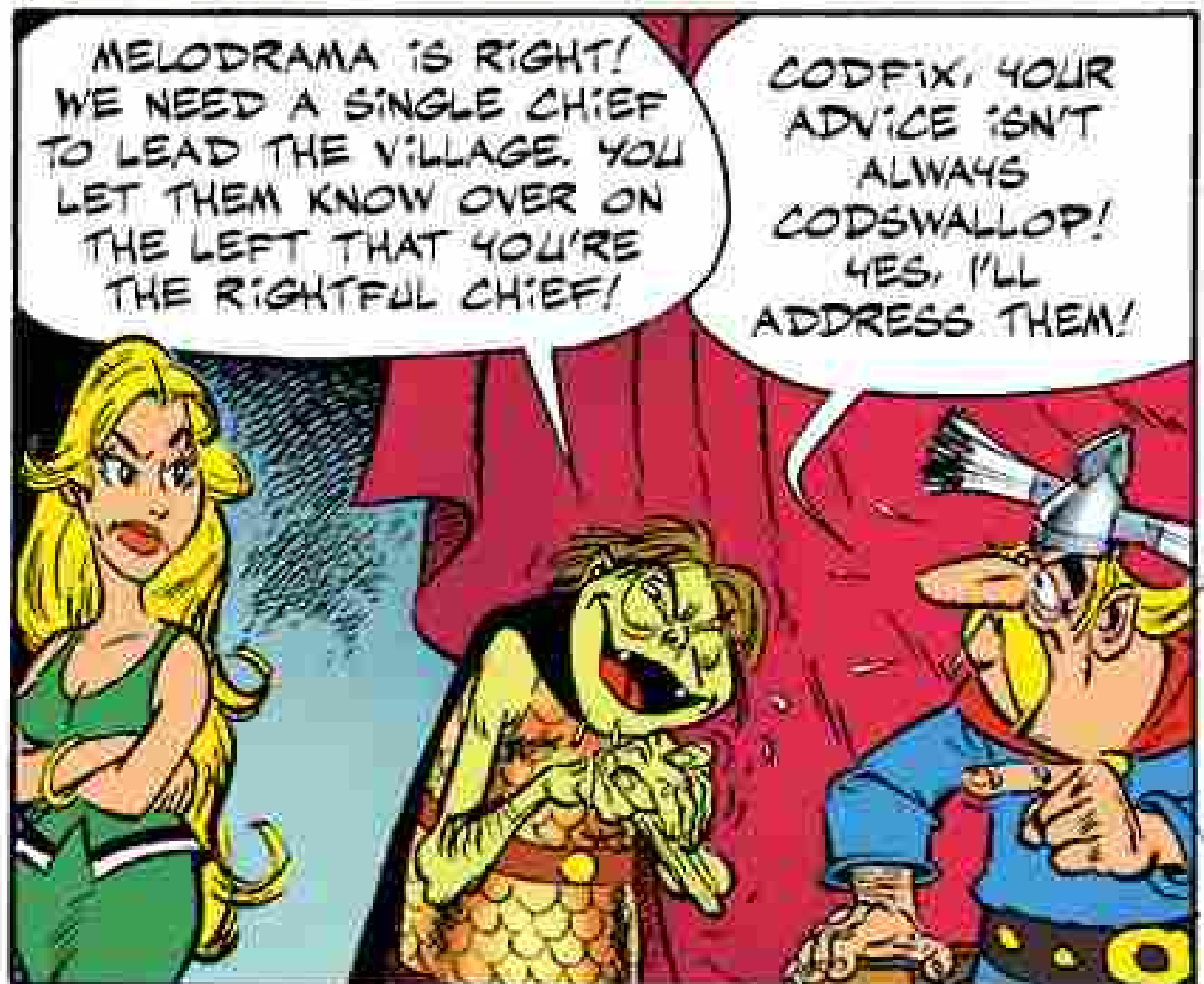
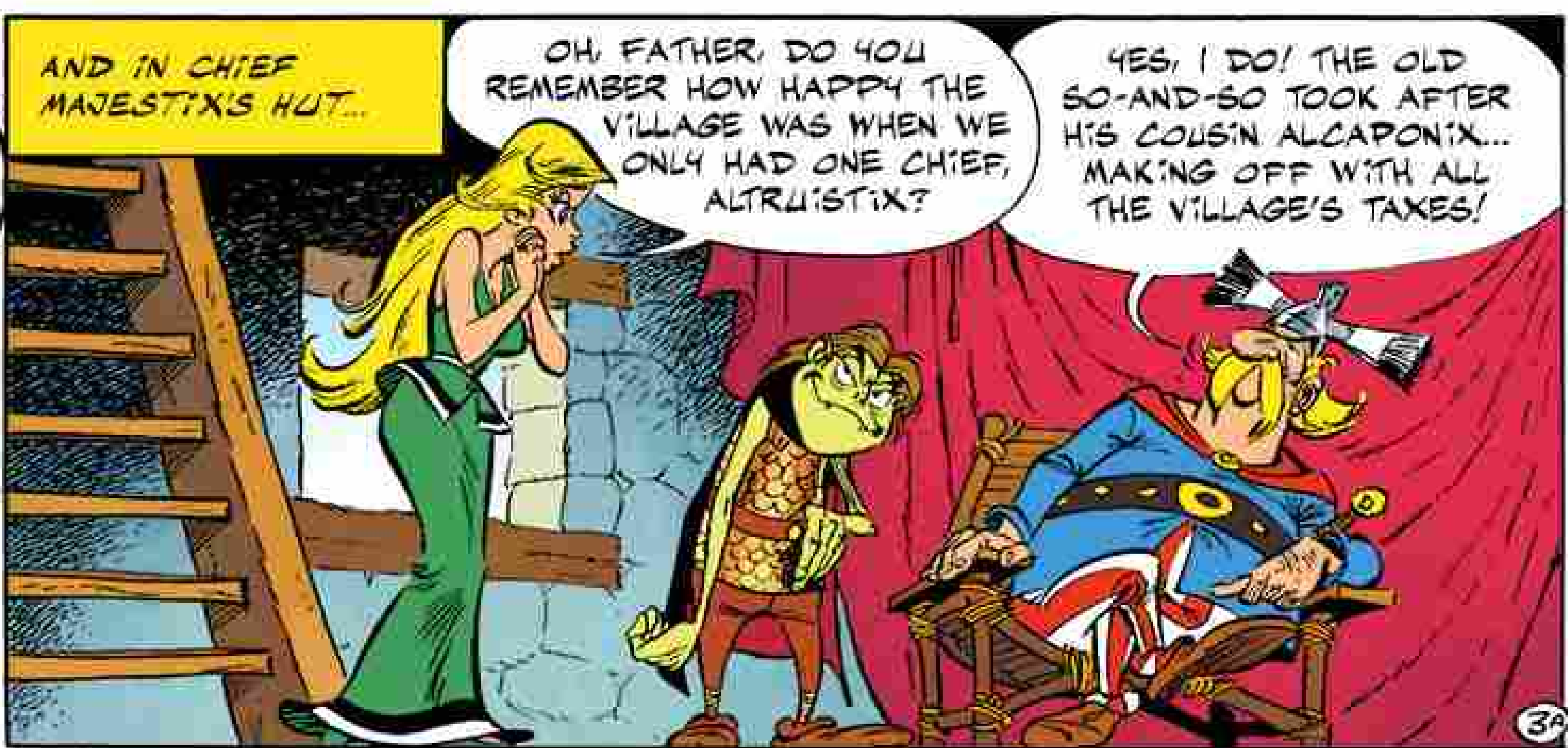
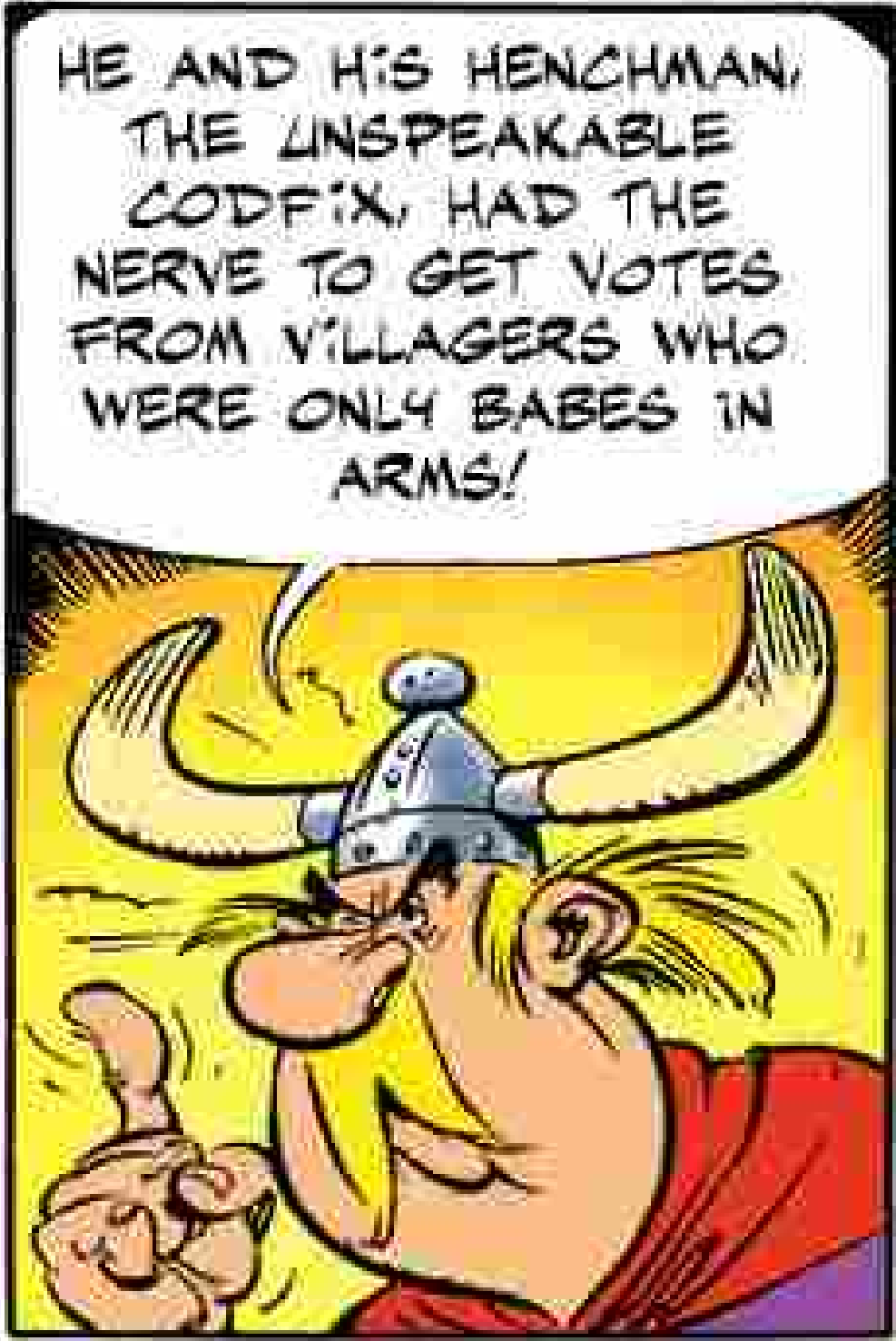
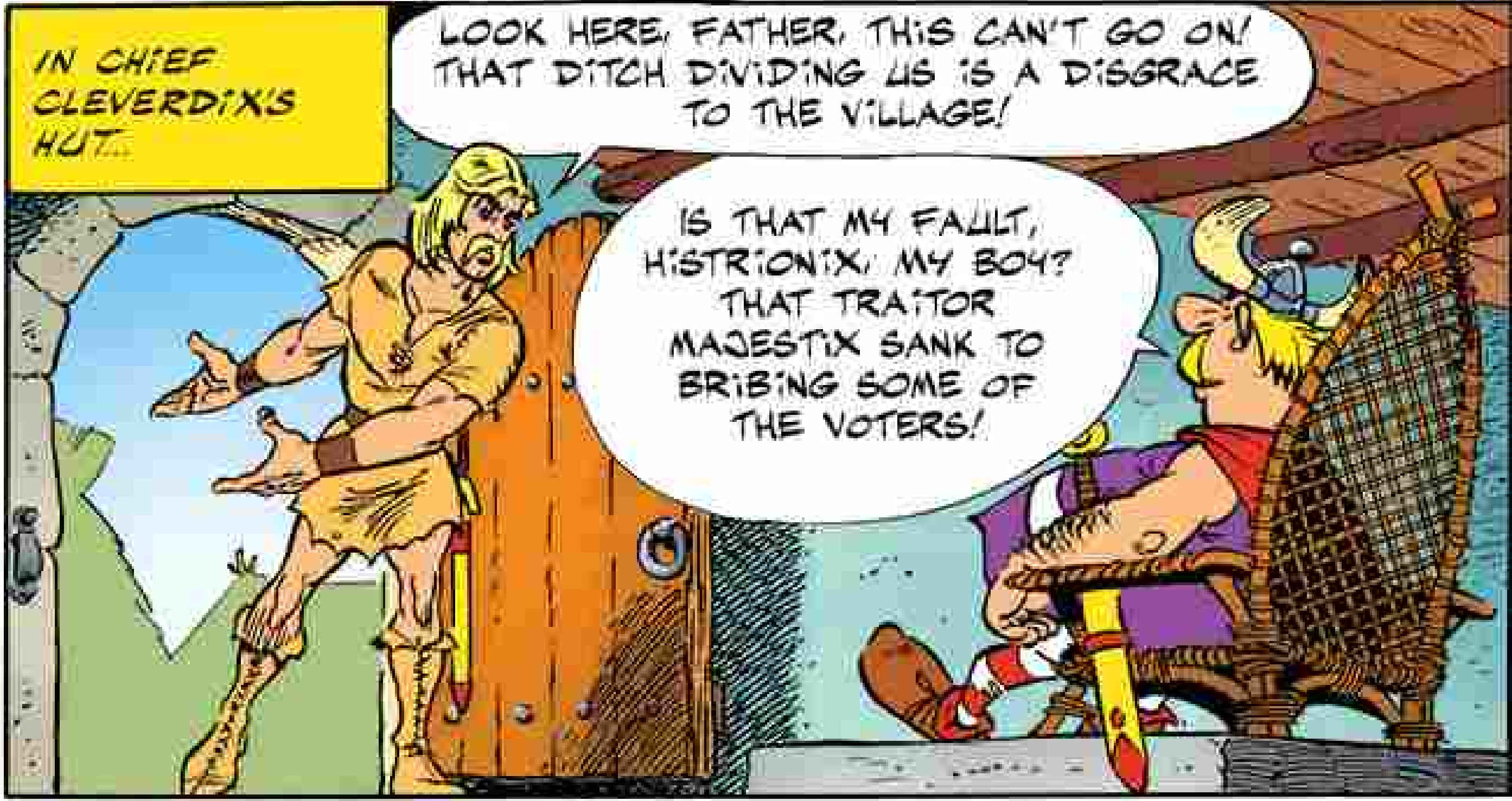
CACOFONIX, THE BARD. OPINION IS DIVIDED AS TO HIS MUSICAL GIFTS. CACOFONIX THINKS HE'S A GENIUS. EVERYONE ELSE THINKS HE'S UNSPEAKABLE. BUT SO LONG AS HE DOESN'T SPEAK, LET ALONE SING, EVERYBODY LIKES HIM . . .

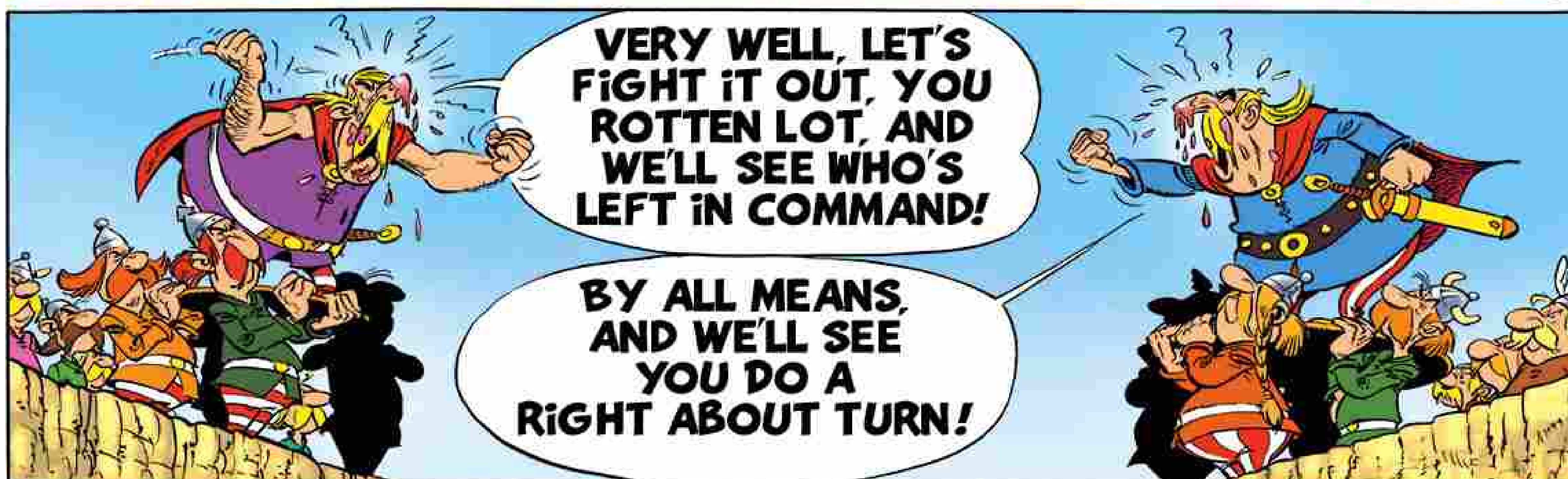
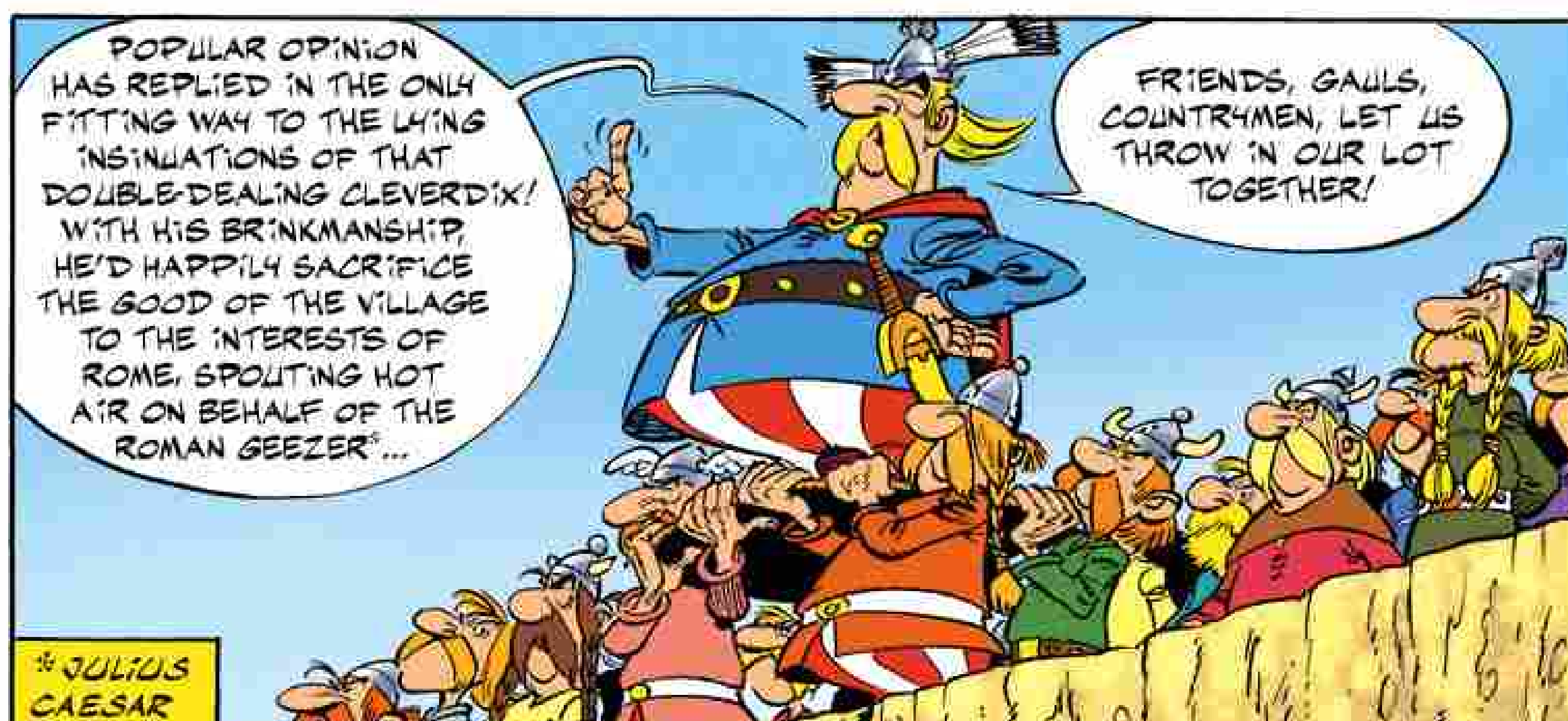


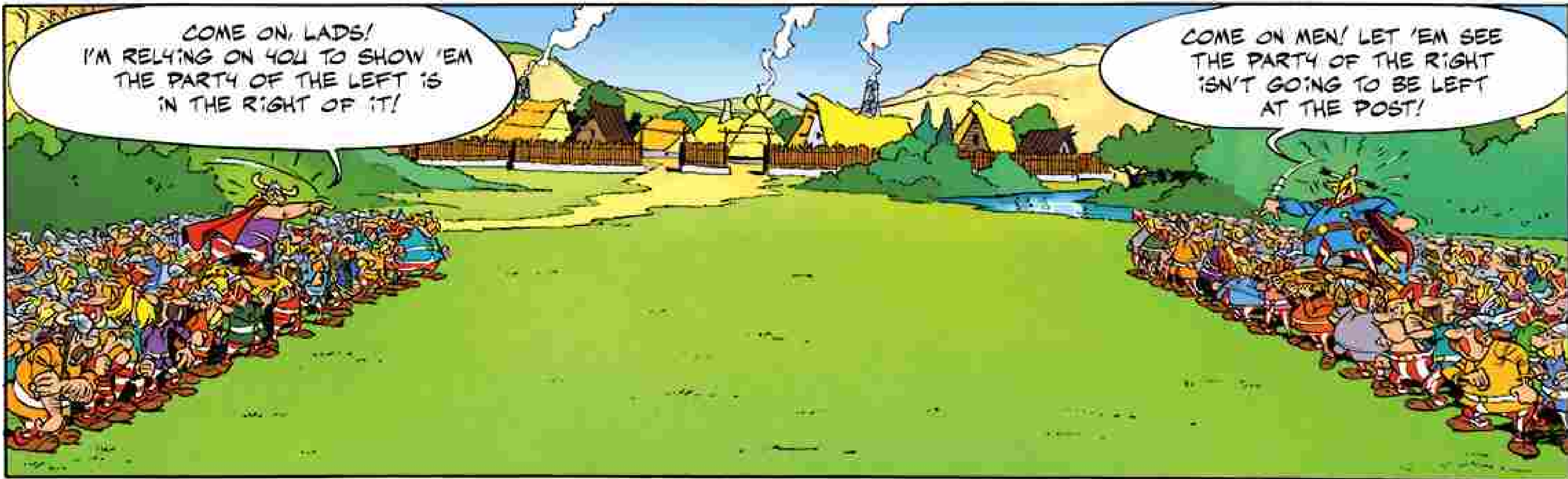
FINALLY, VITALSTATISTIX, THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE. MAJESTIC, BRAVE AND HOT-TEMPERED, THE OLD WARRIOR IS RESPECTED BY HIS MEN AND FEARED BY HIS ENEMIES. VITALSTATISTIX HIMSELF HAS ONLY ONE FEAR, HE IS AFRAID THE SKY MAY FALL ON HIS HEAD TOMORROW. BUT AS HE ALWAYS SAYS, TOMORROW NEVER COMES.

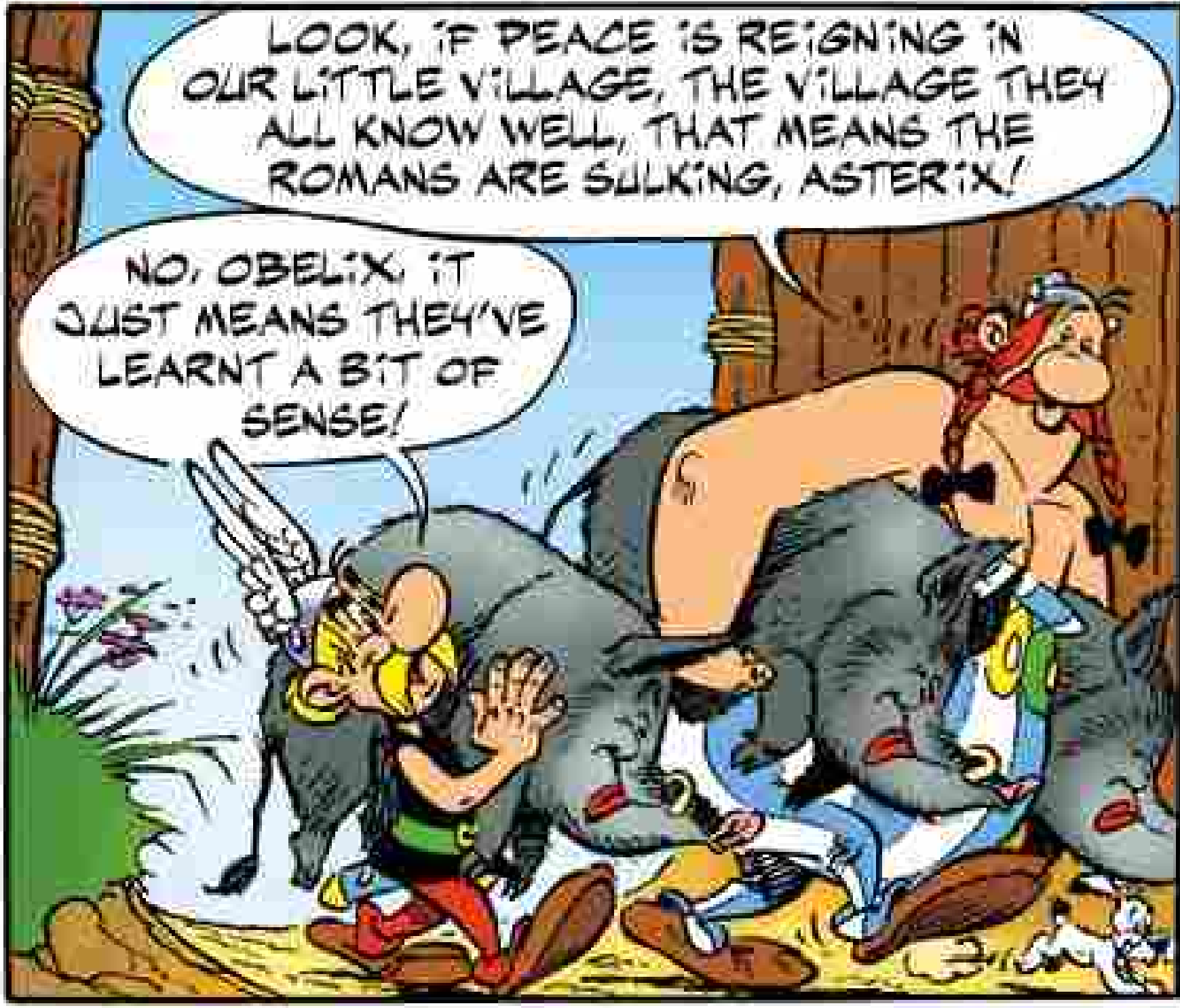


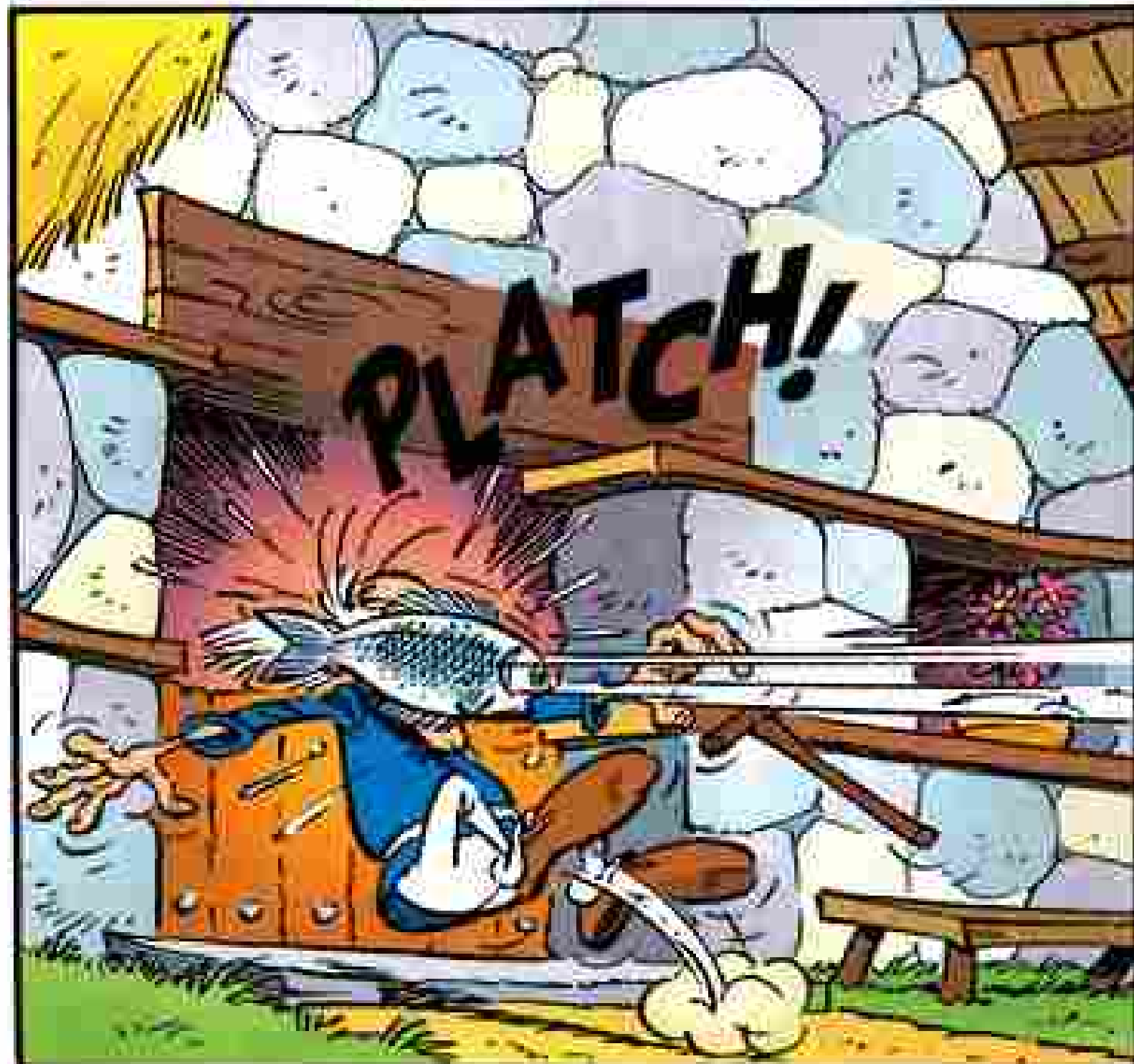
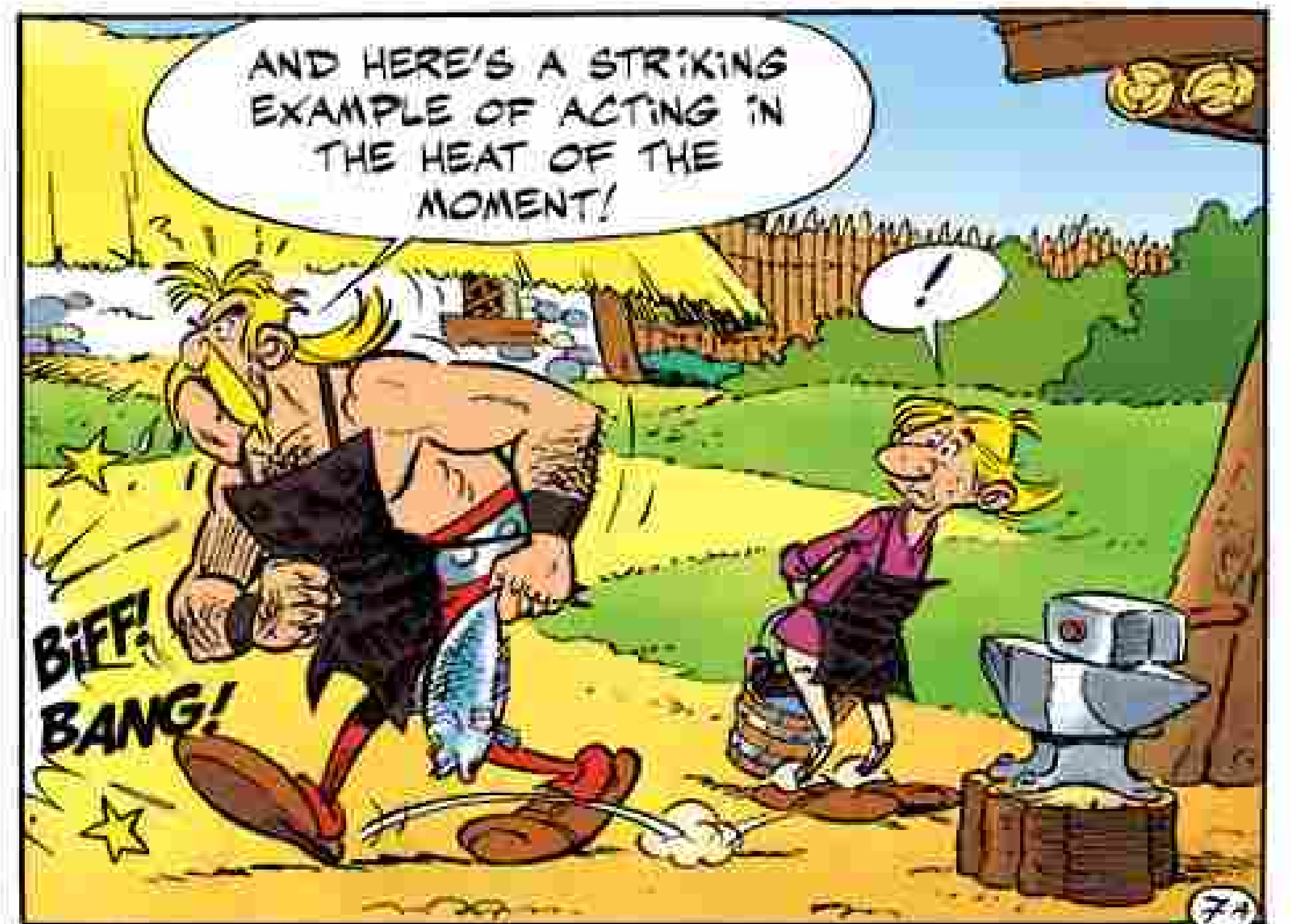
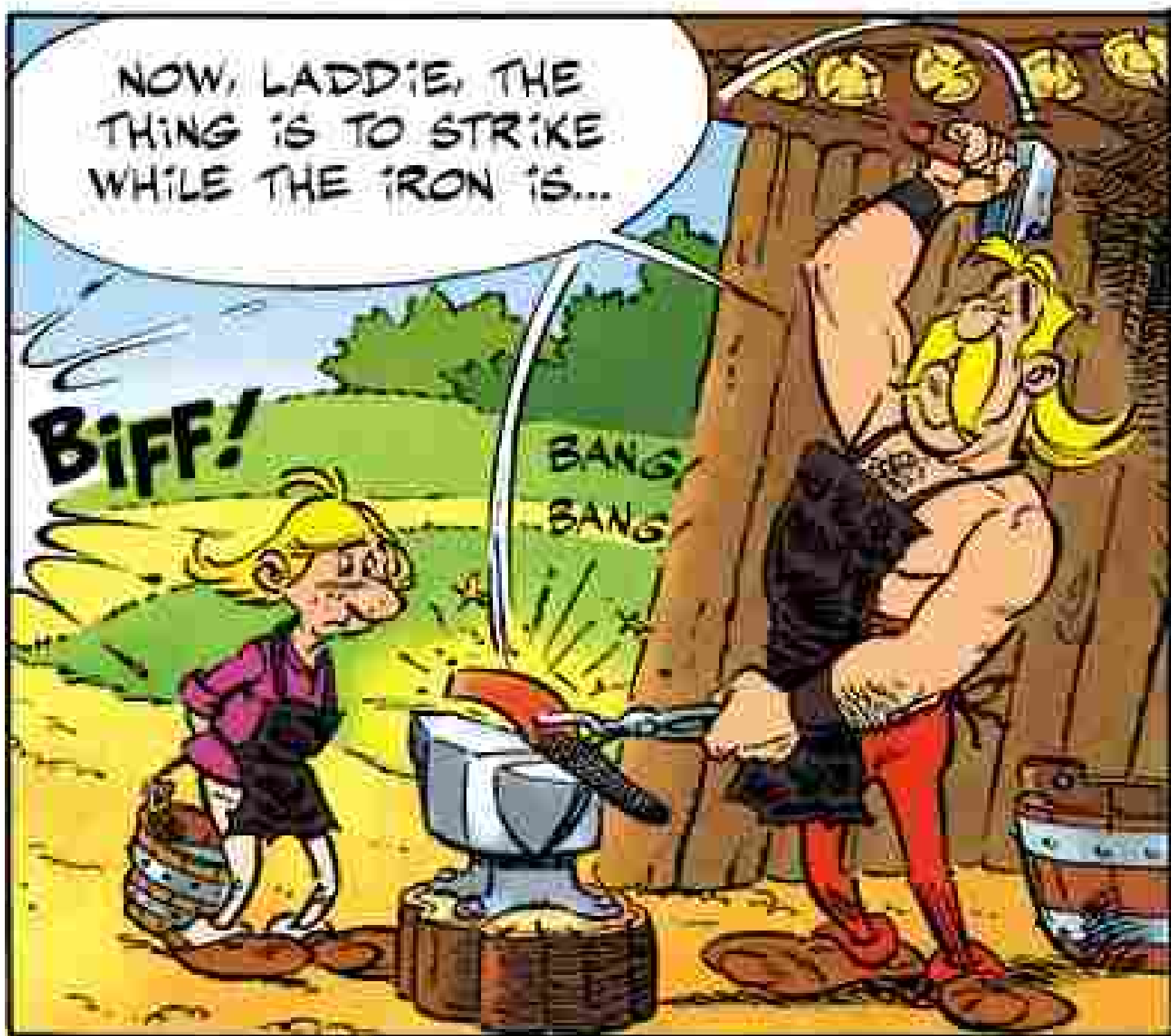
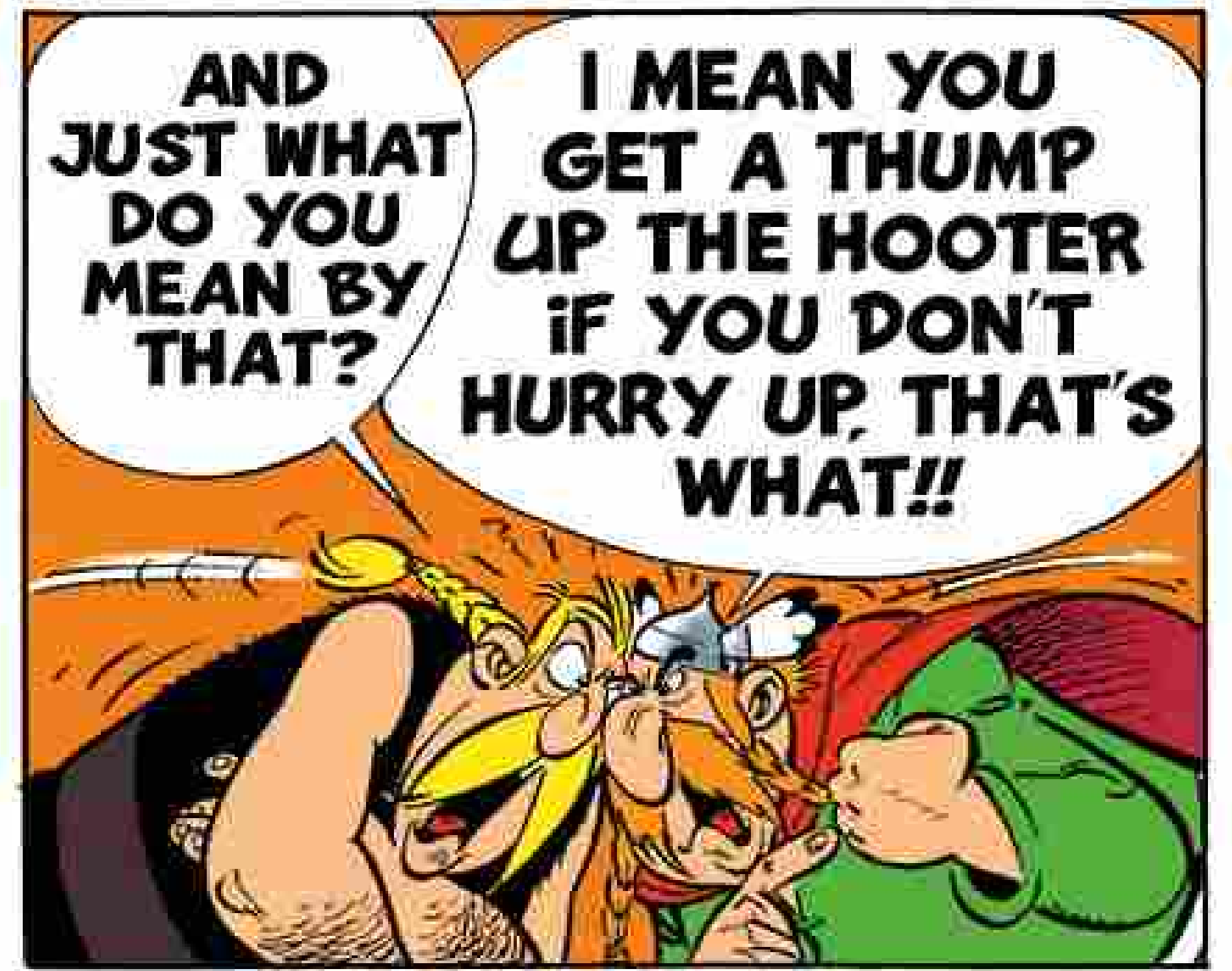
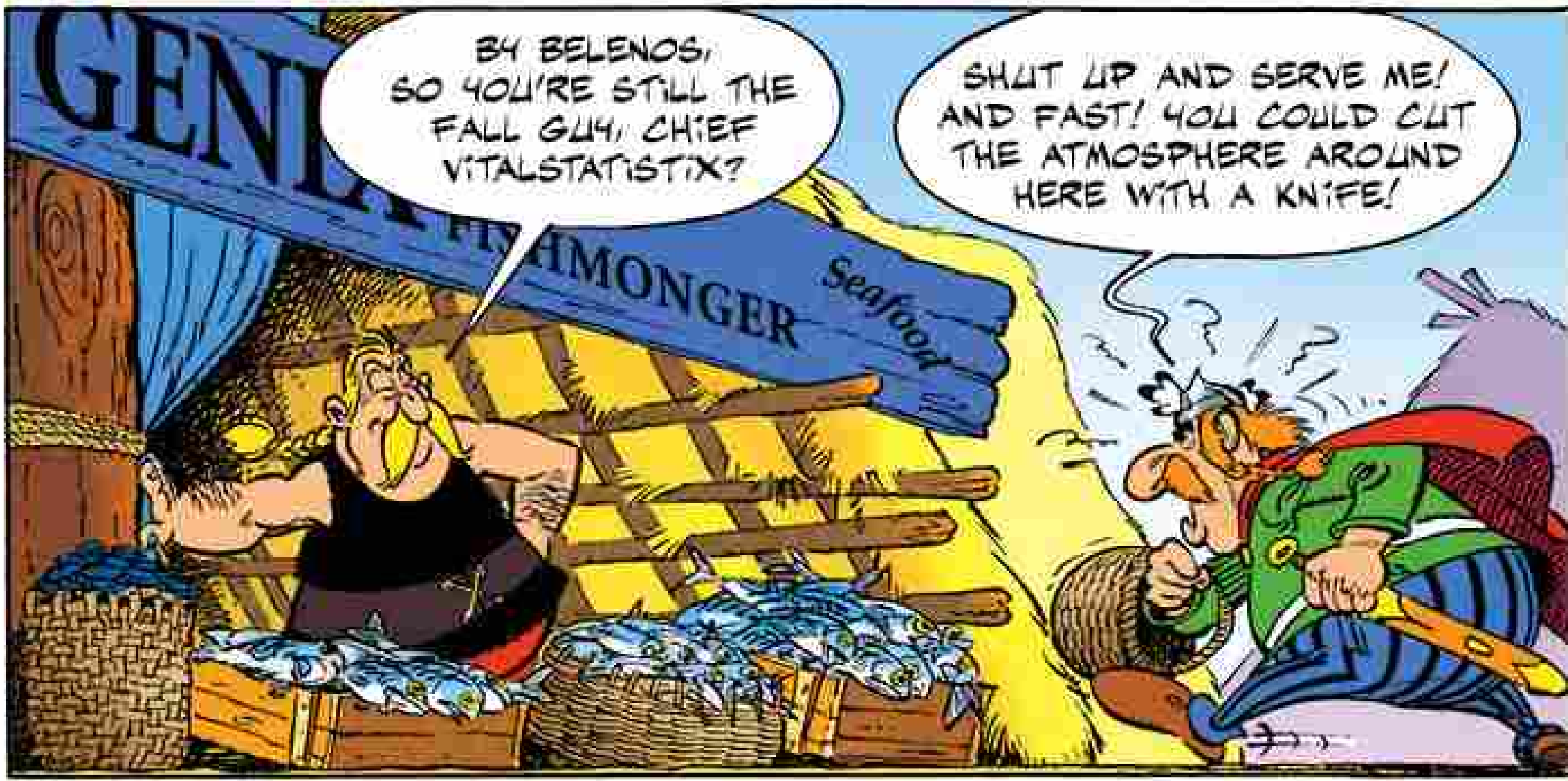


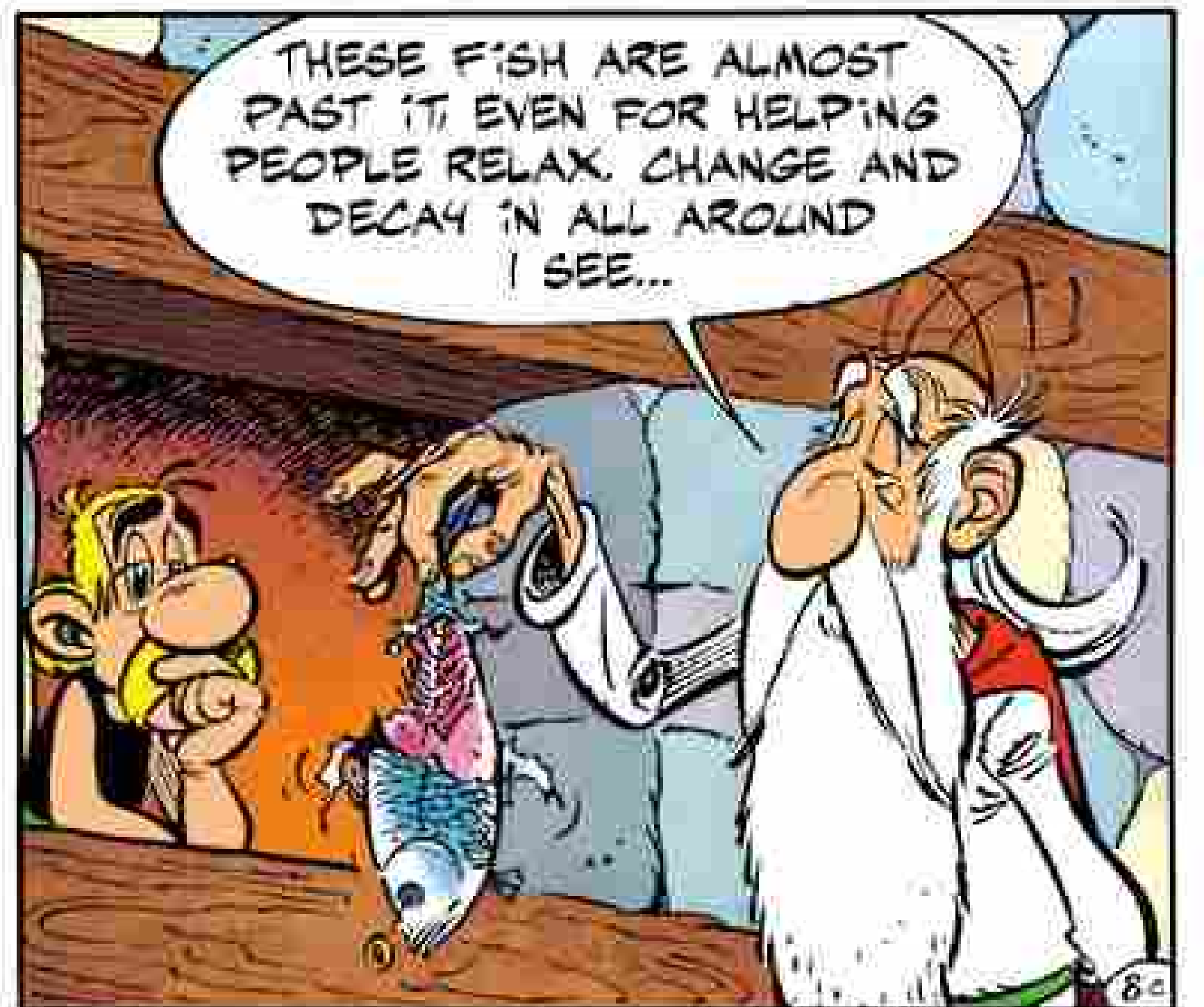
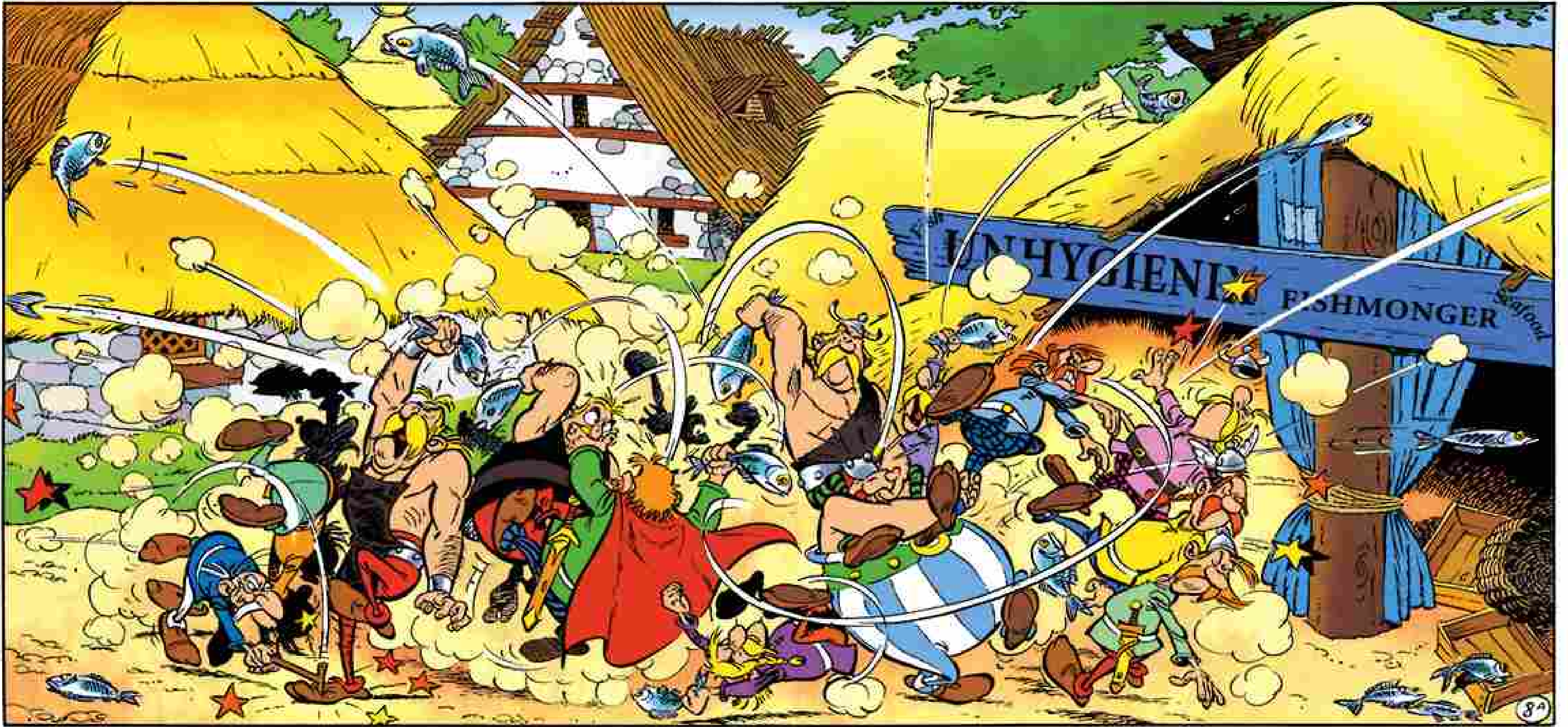


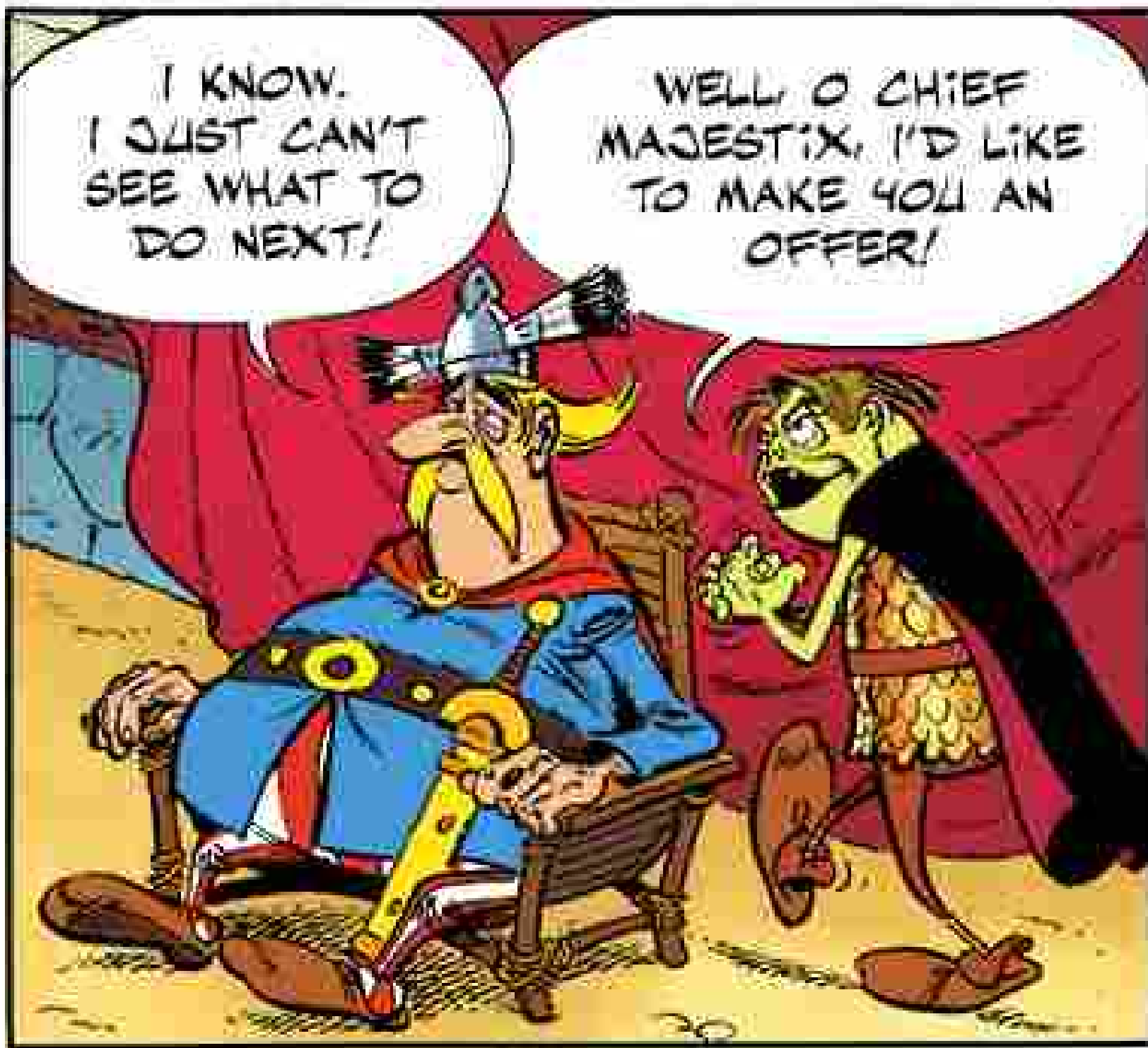
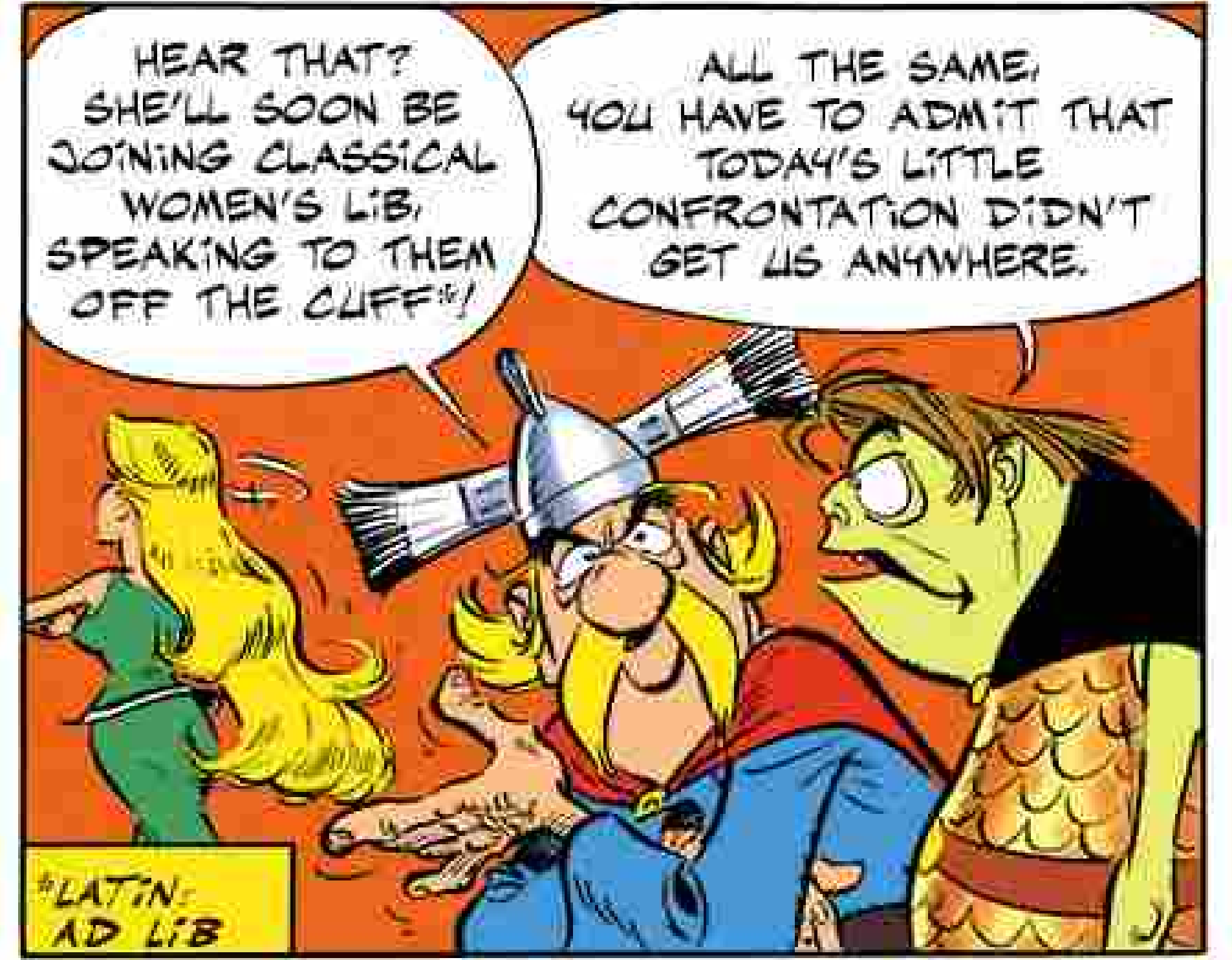
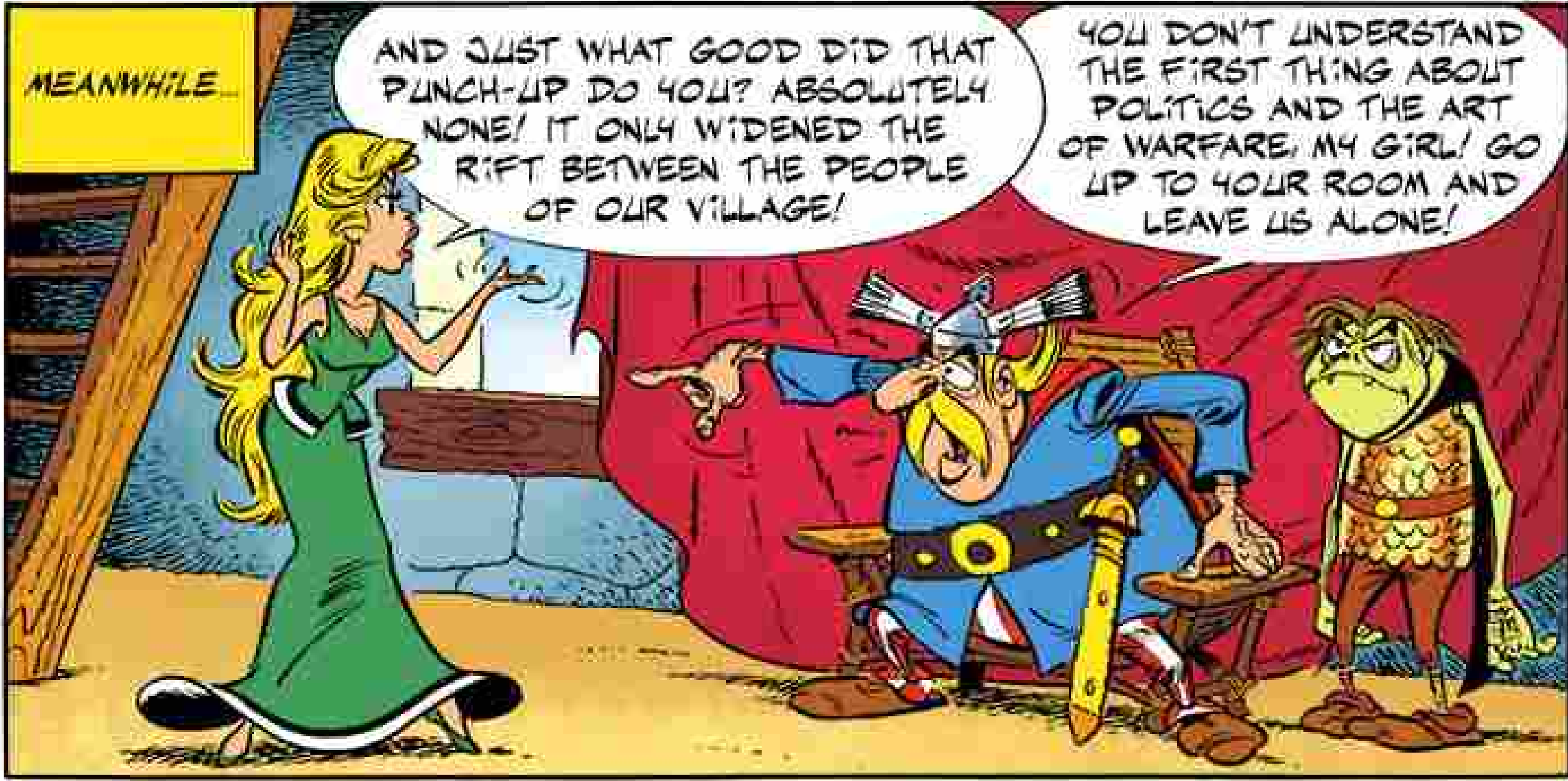




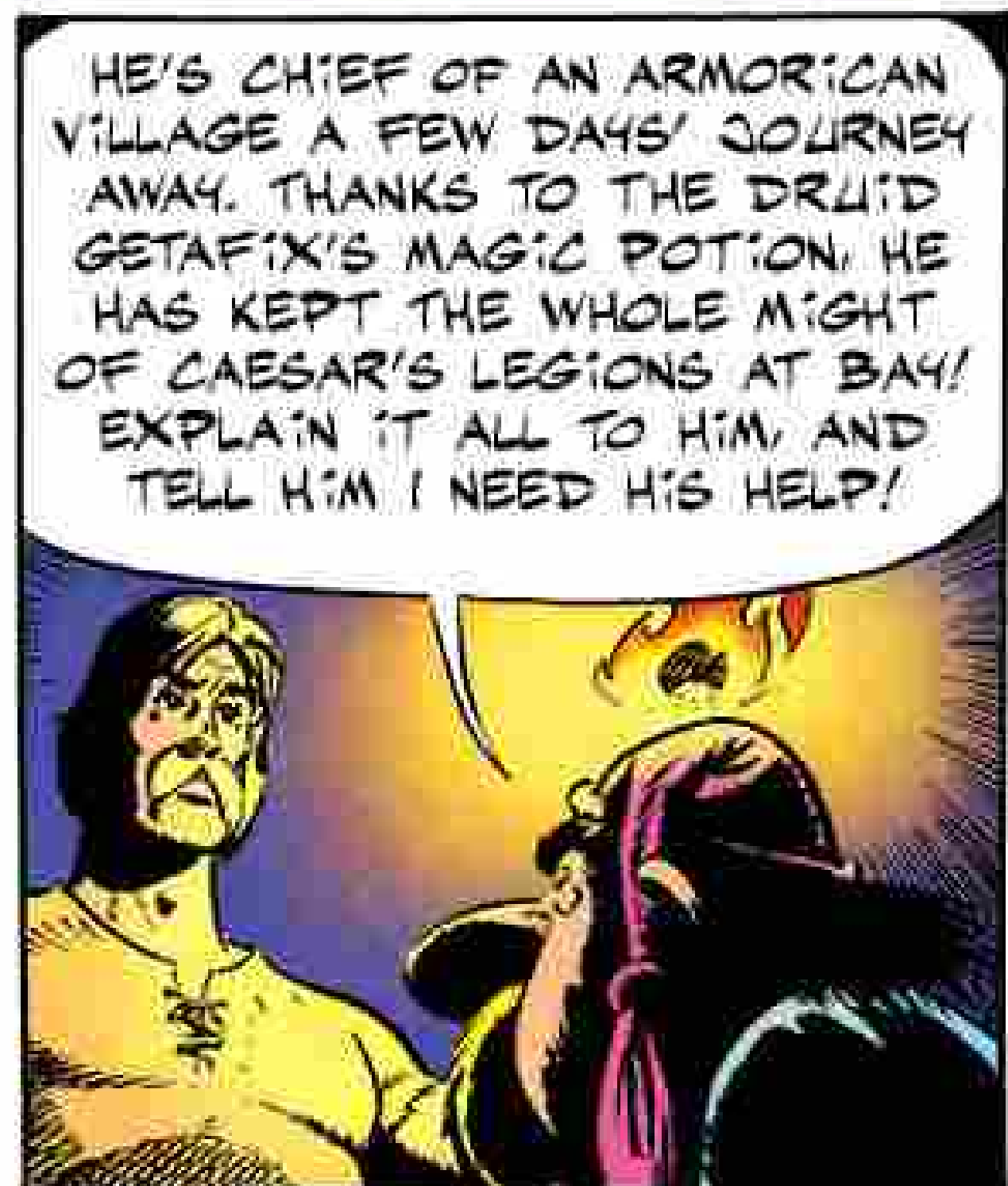
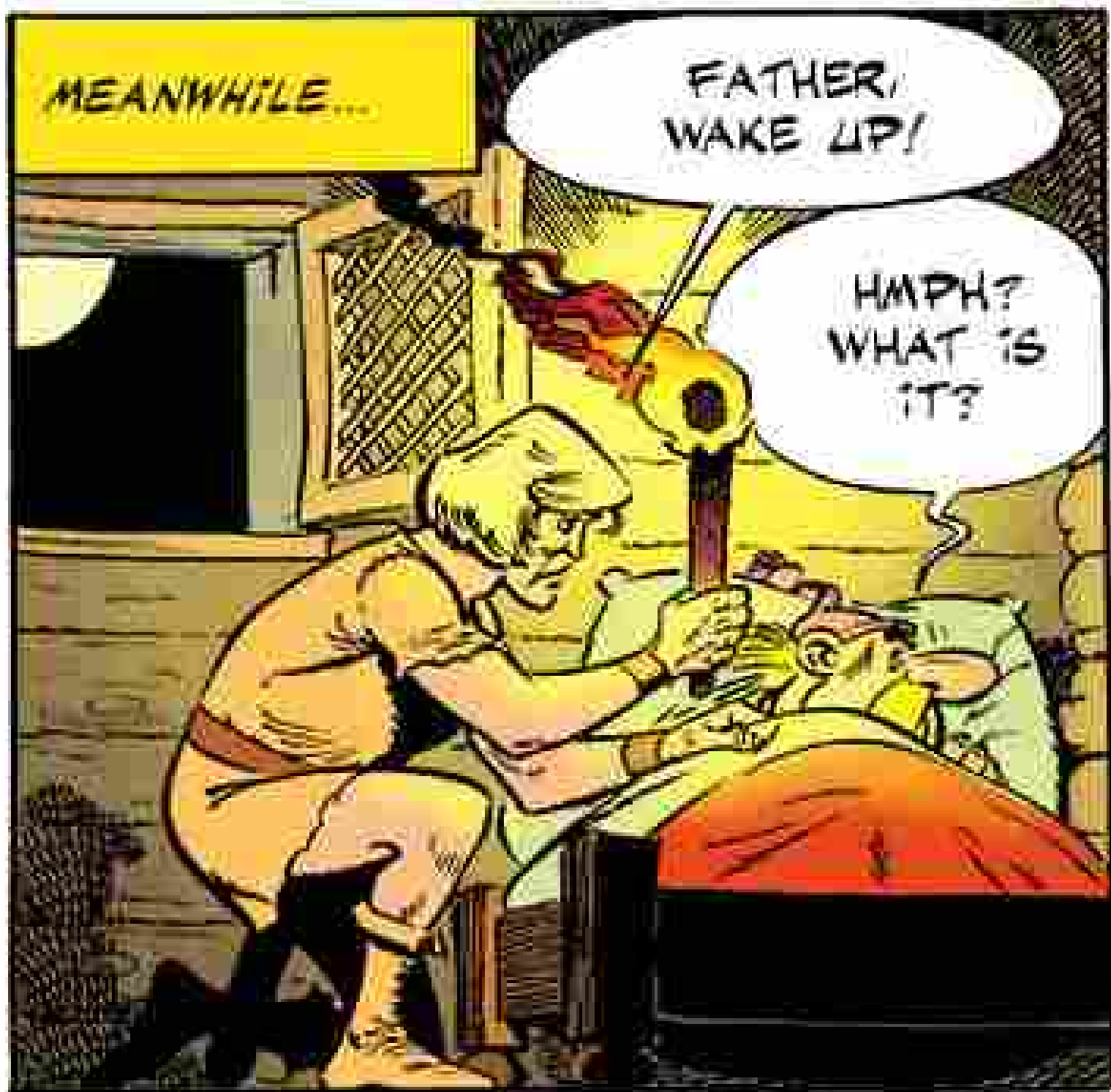
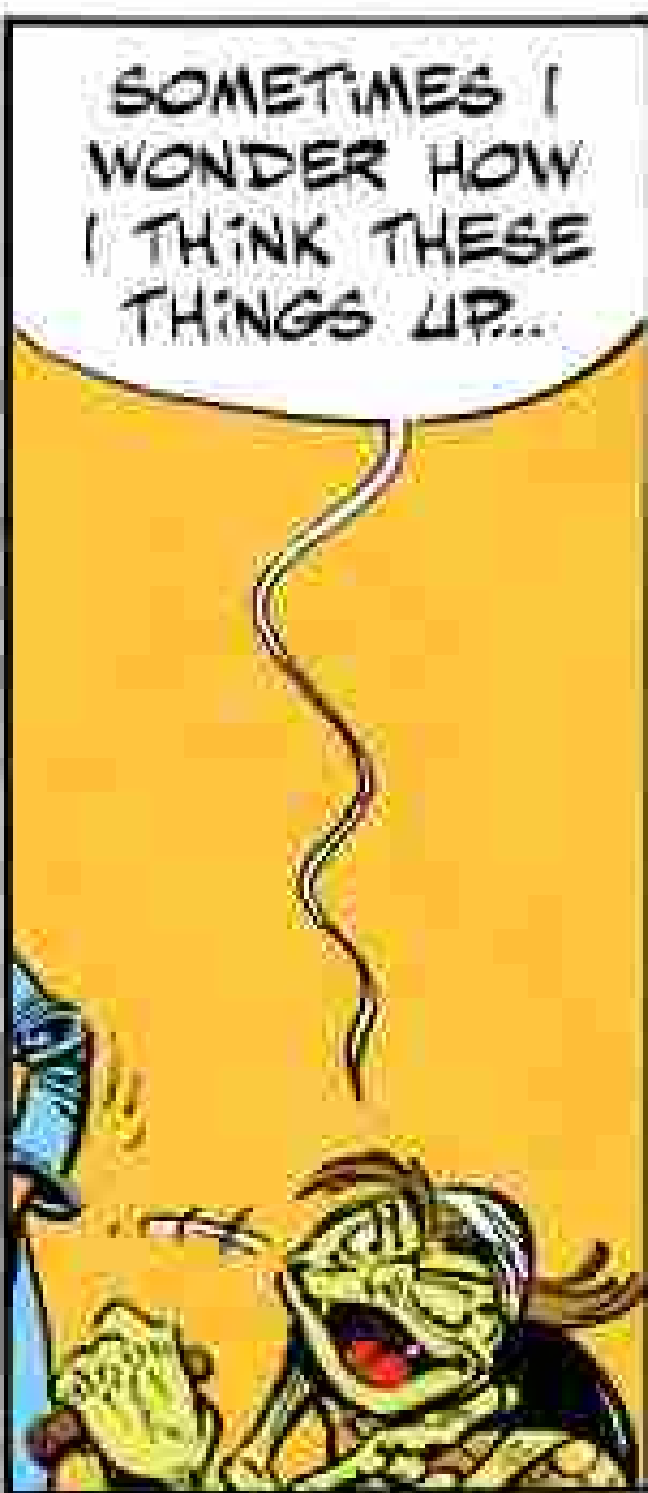


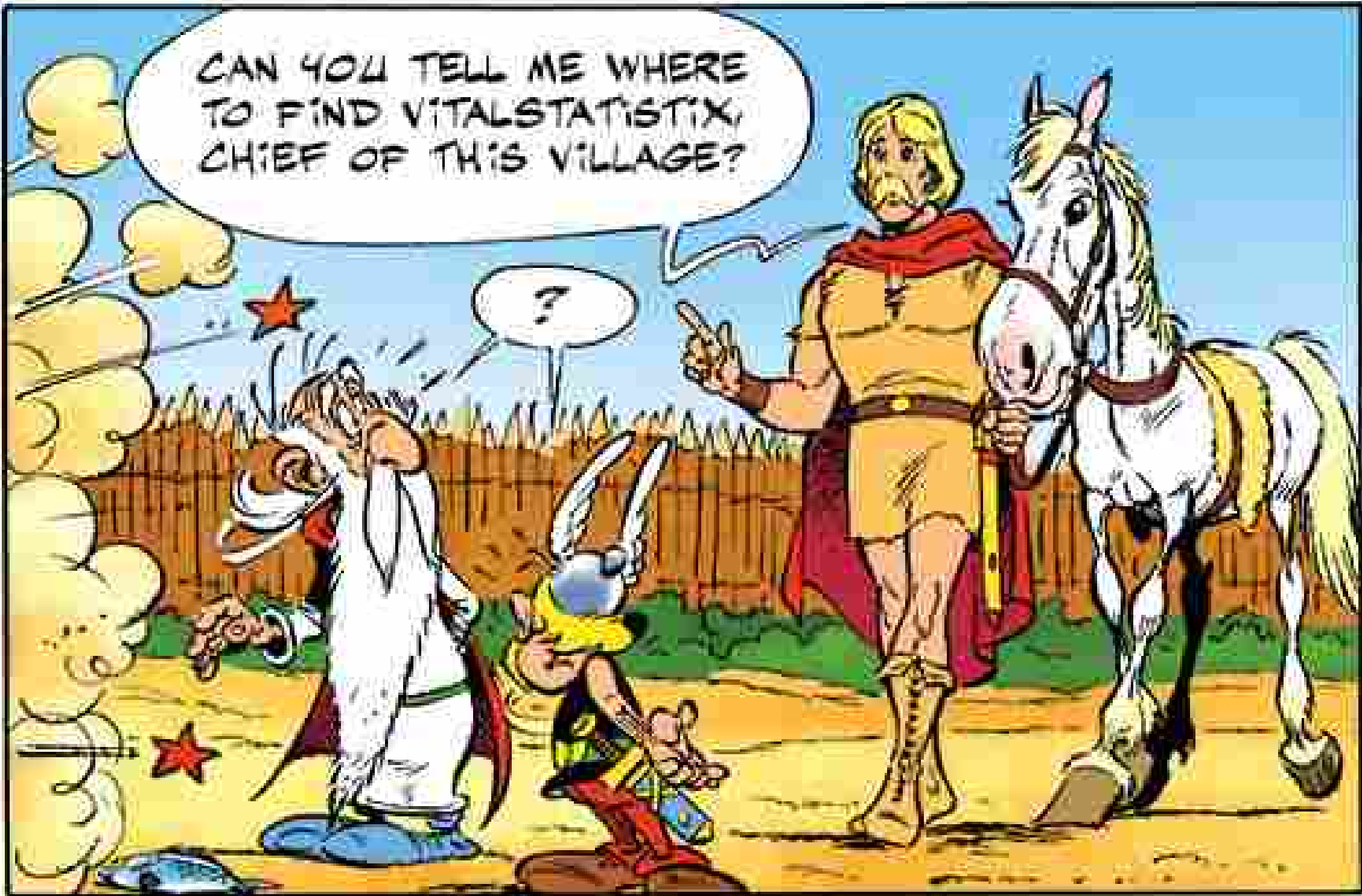
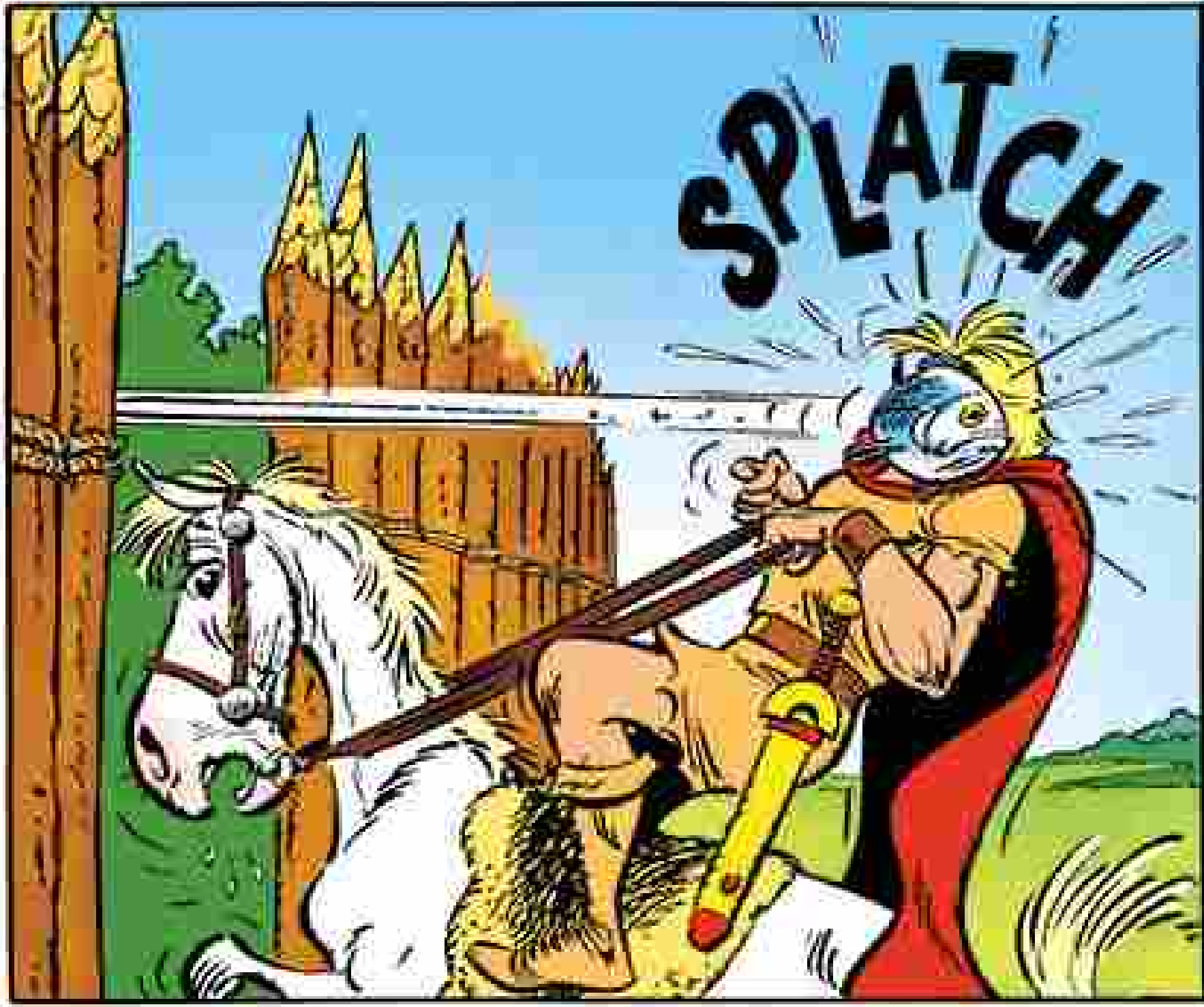
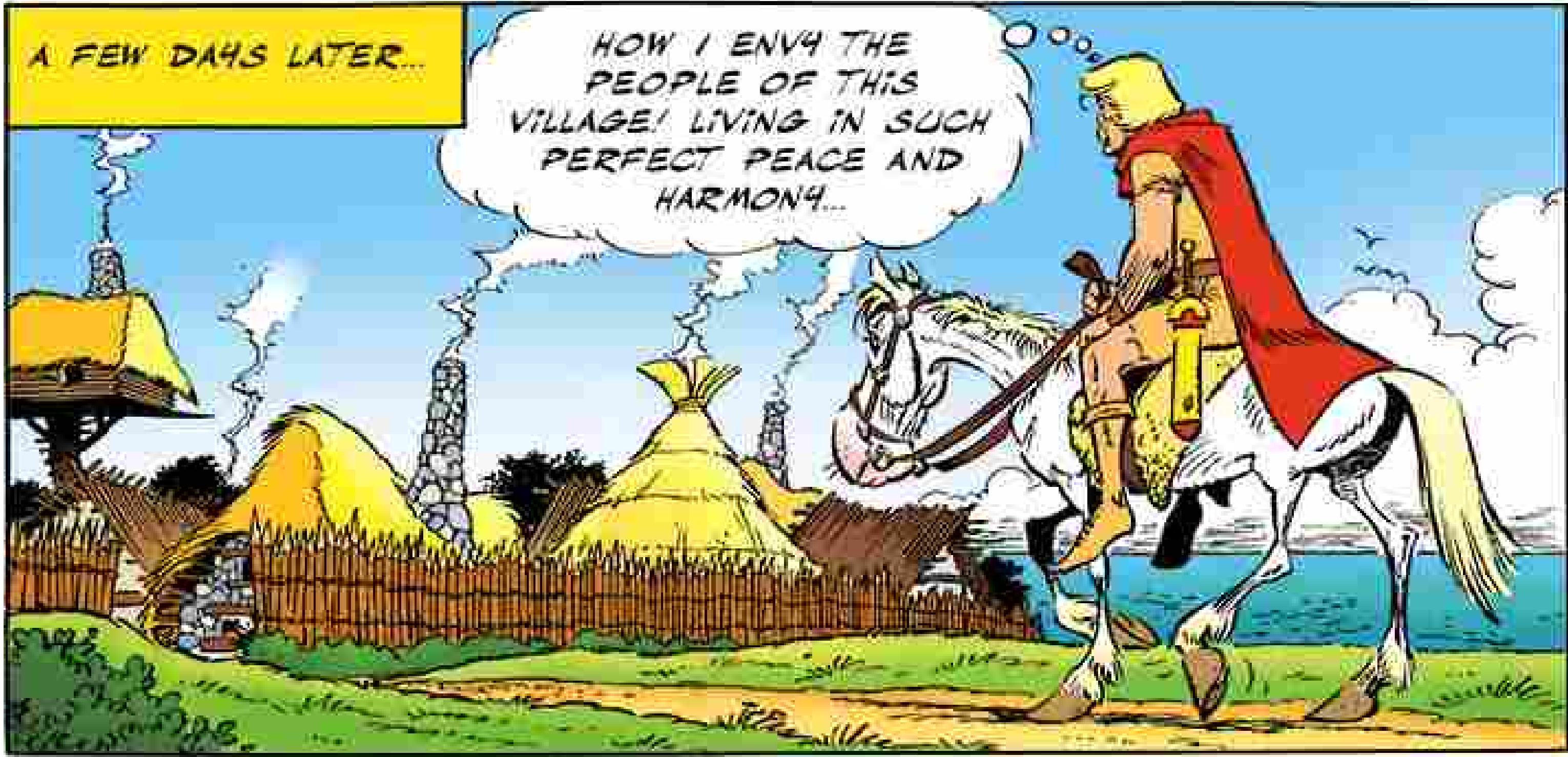


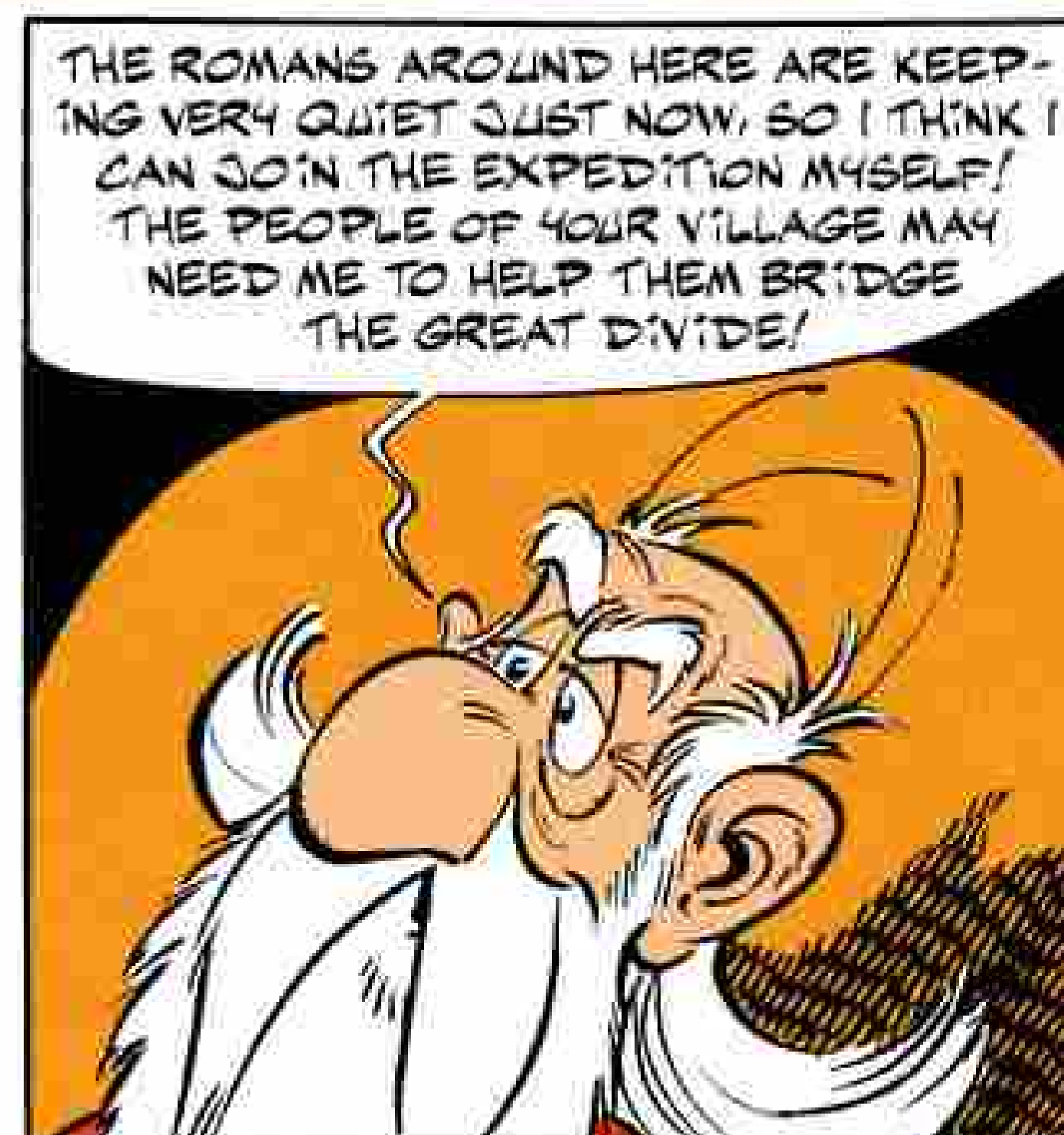
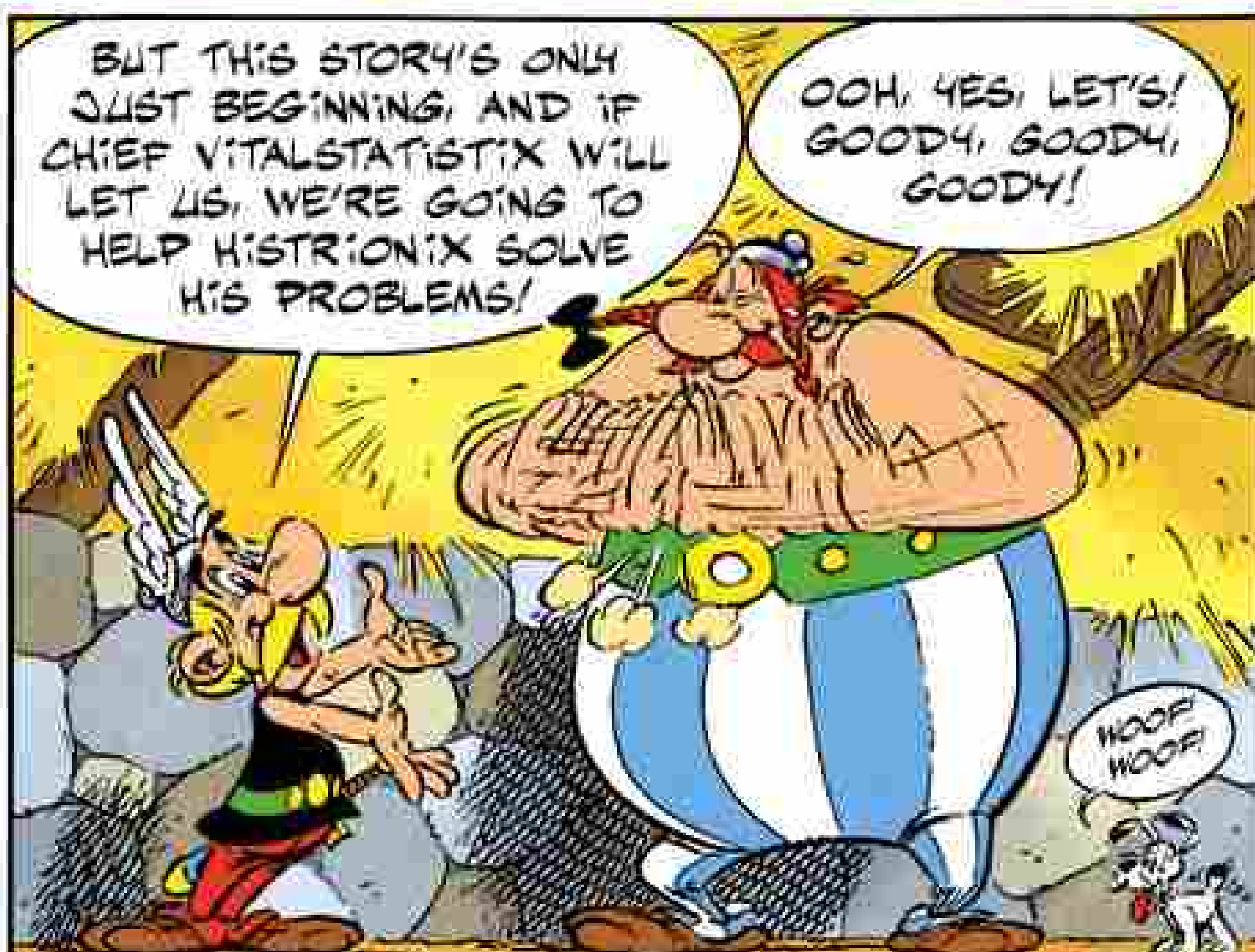
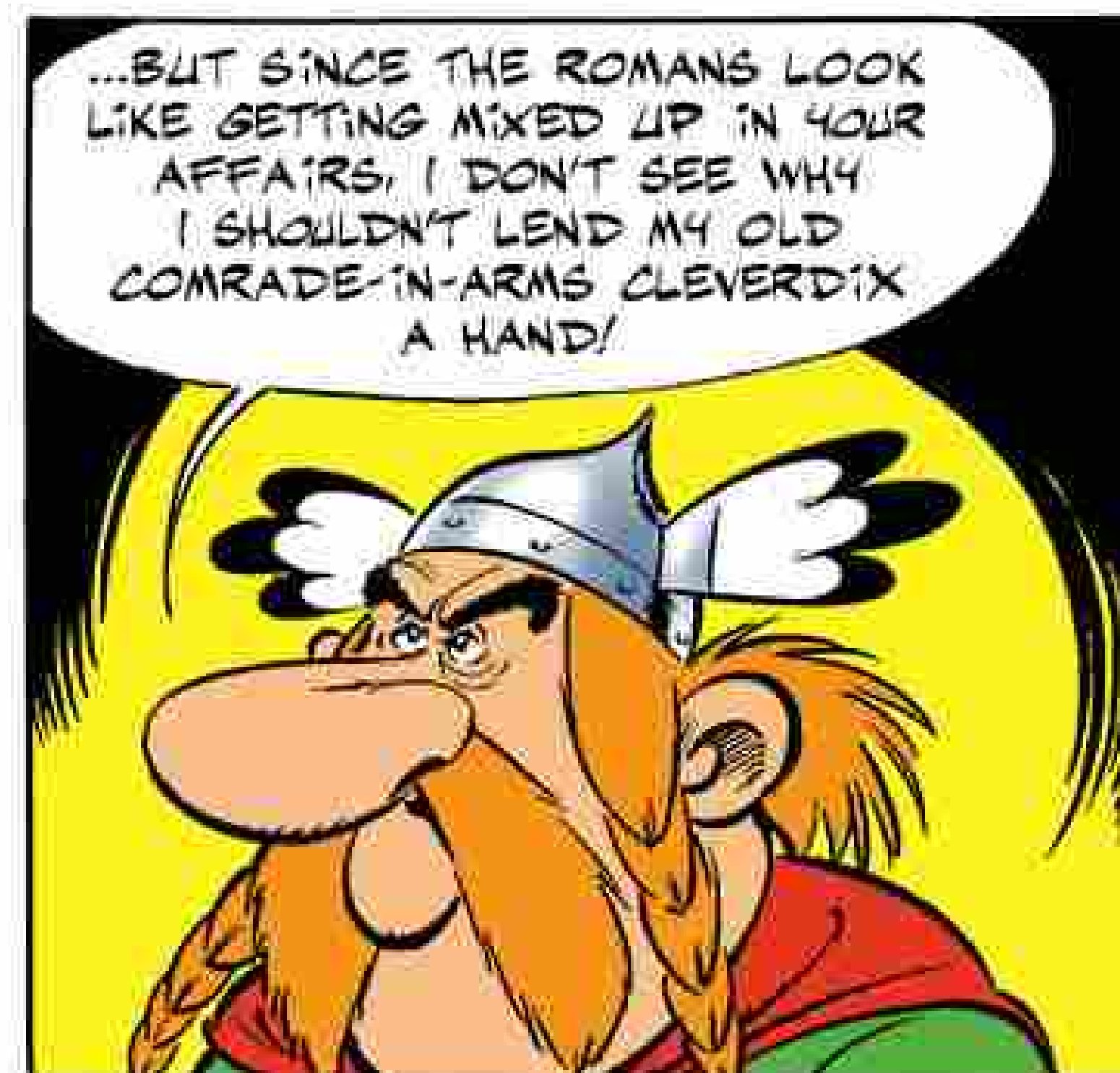




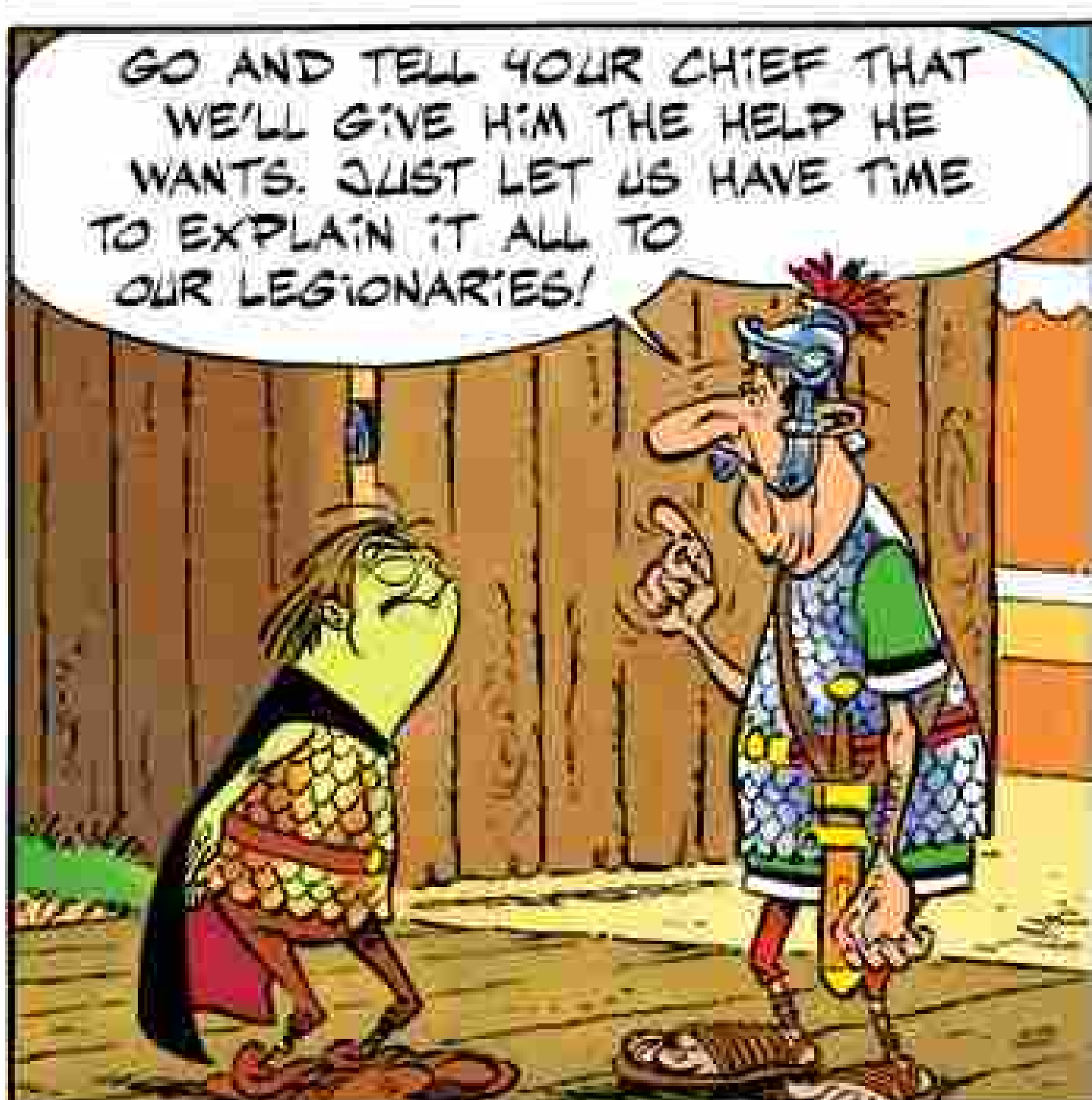
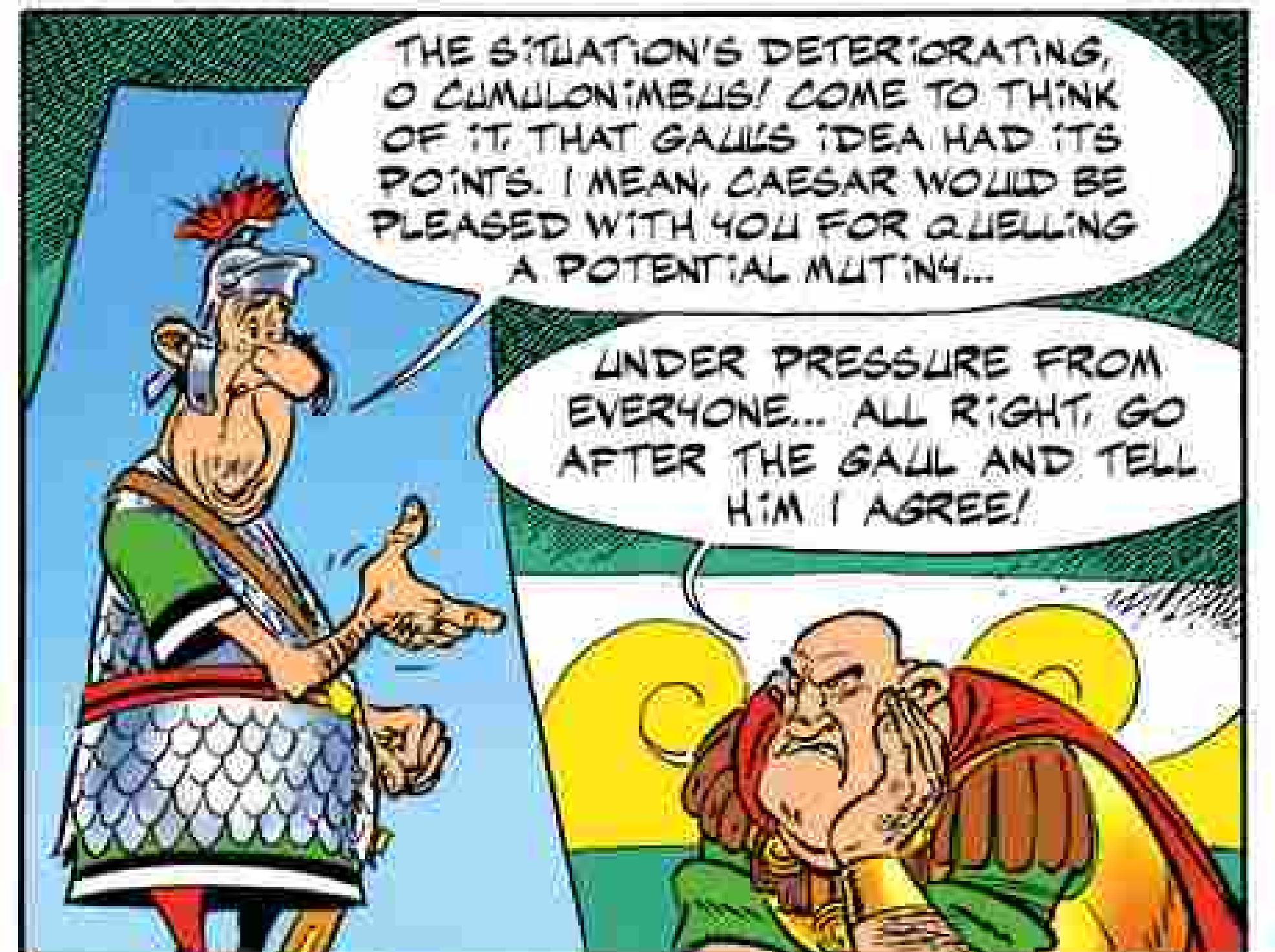
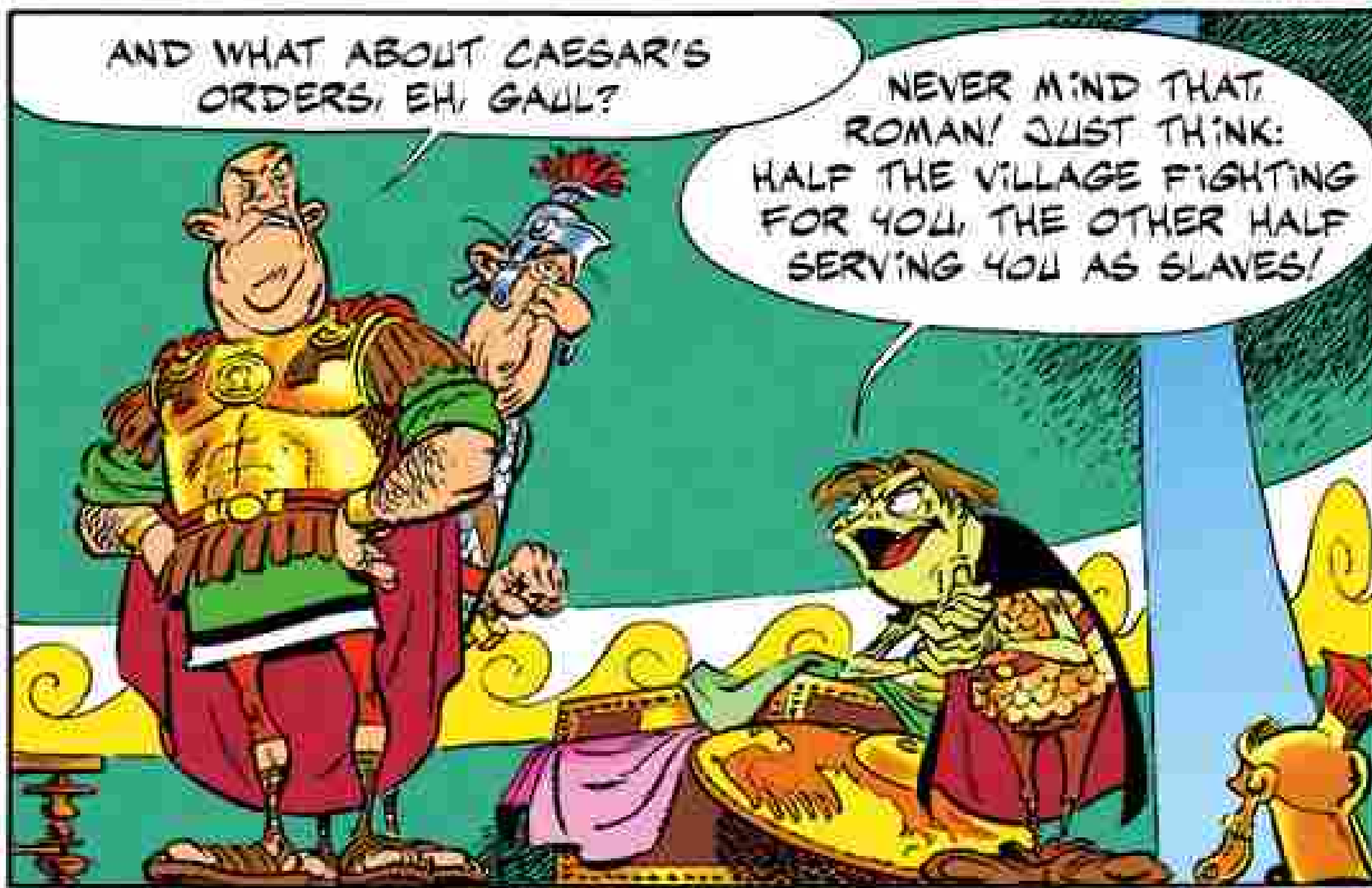












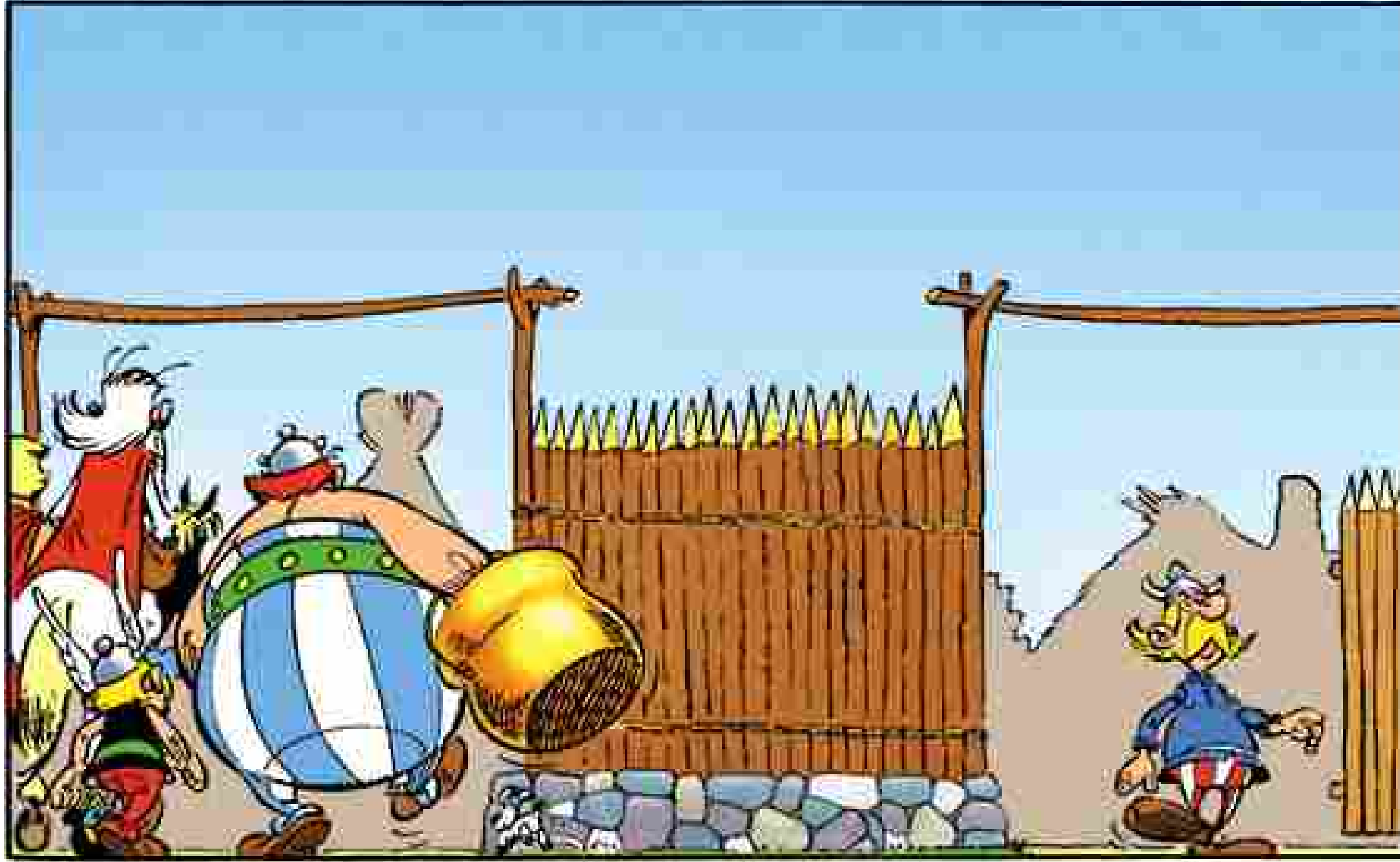


WHY, YOUR VILLAGE LOOKS MORE PEACEFUL THAN OURS!

YES, I DON'T WANT TO CRY STINKING FISH, BUT THE AIR CERTAINLY SEEMS CLEARER HERE!

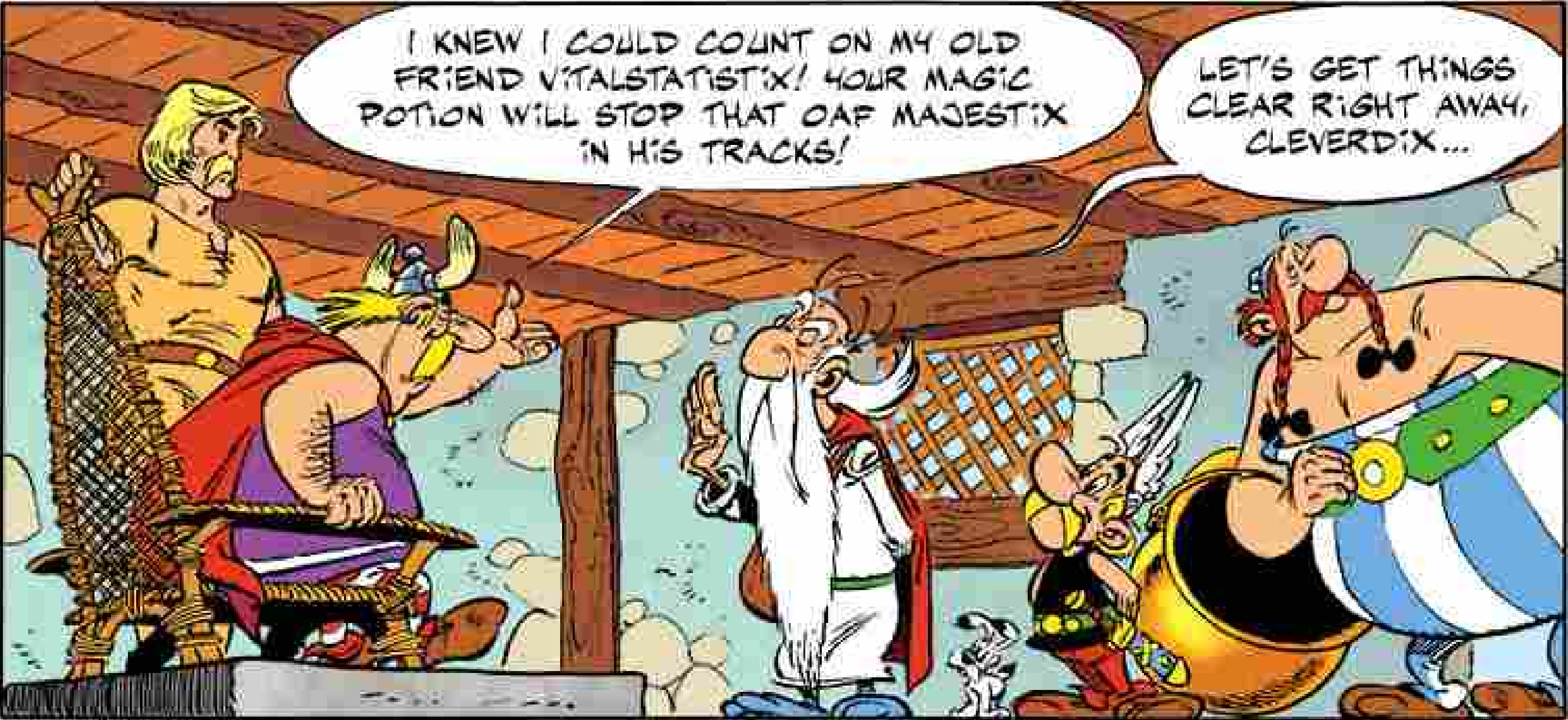


DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT. THERE'S A SLUMBERING VOLCANO UNDER THOSE THATCHED ROOFS... ONE WHICH COULD ERUPT INTO VIOLENCE AT ANY MOMENT!



???

RSPRRR!

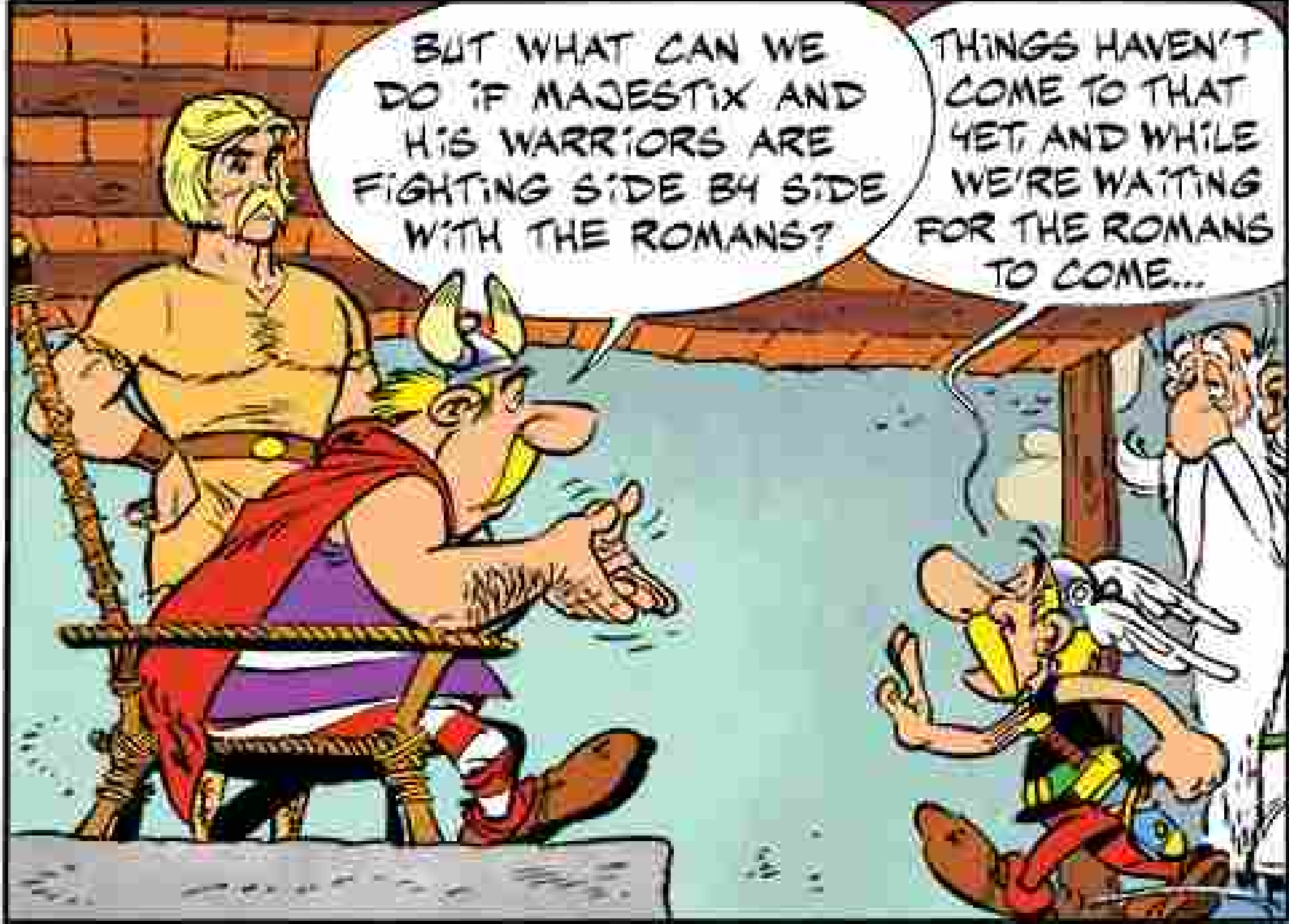


I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON MY OLD FRIEND VITALSTATISTIX! YOUR MAGIC POTION WILL STOP THAT OAF MAJESTIX IN HIS TRACKS!

LET'S GET THINGS CLEAR RIGHT AWAY, CLEVERDIX...



I DOLE OUT MAGIC POTION ONLY FOR FIGHTING ROMANS, NEVER FOR USE IN QUARRELS BETWEEN GAULS!

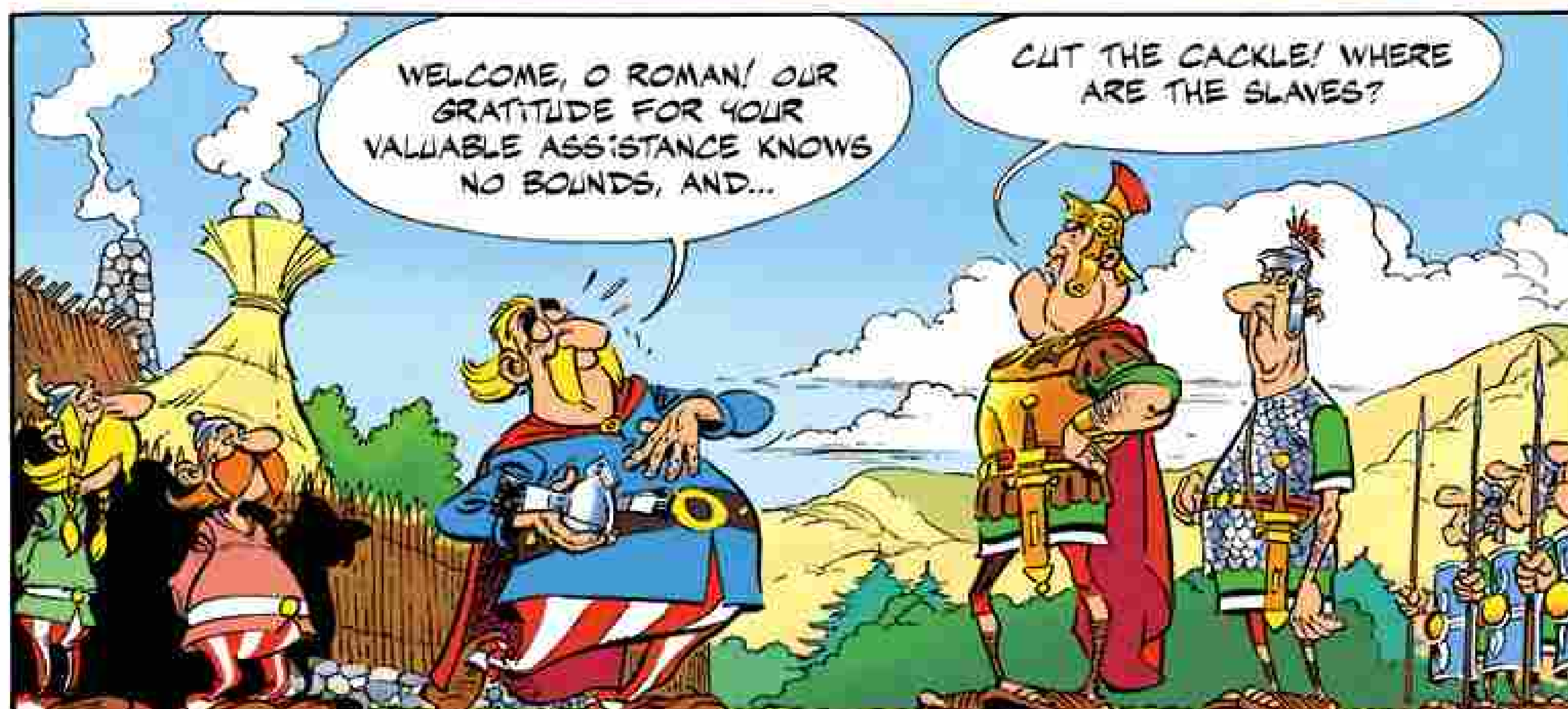


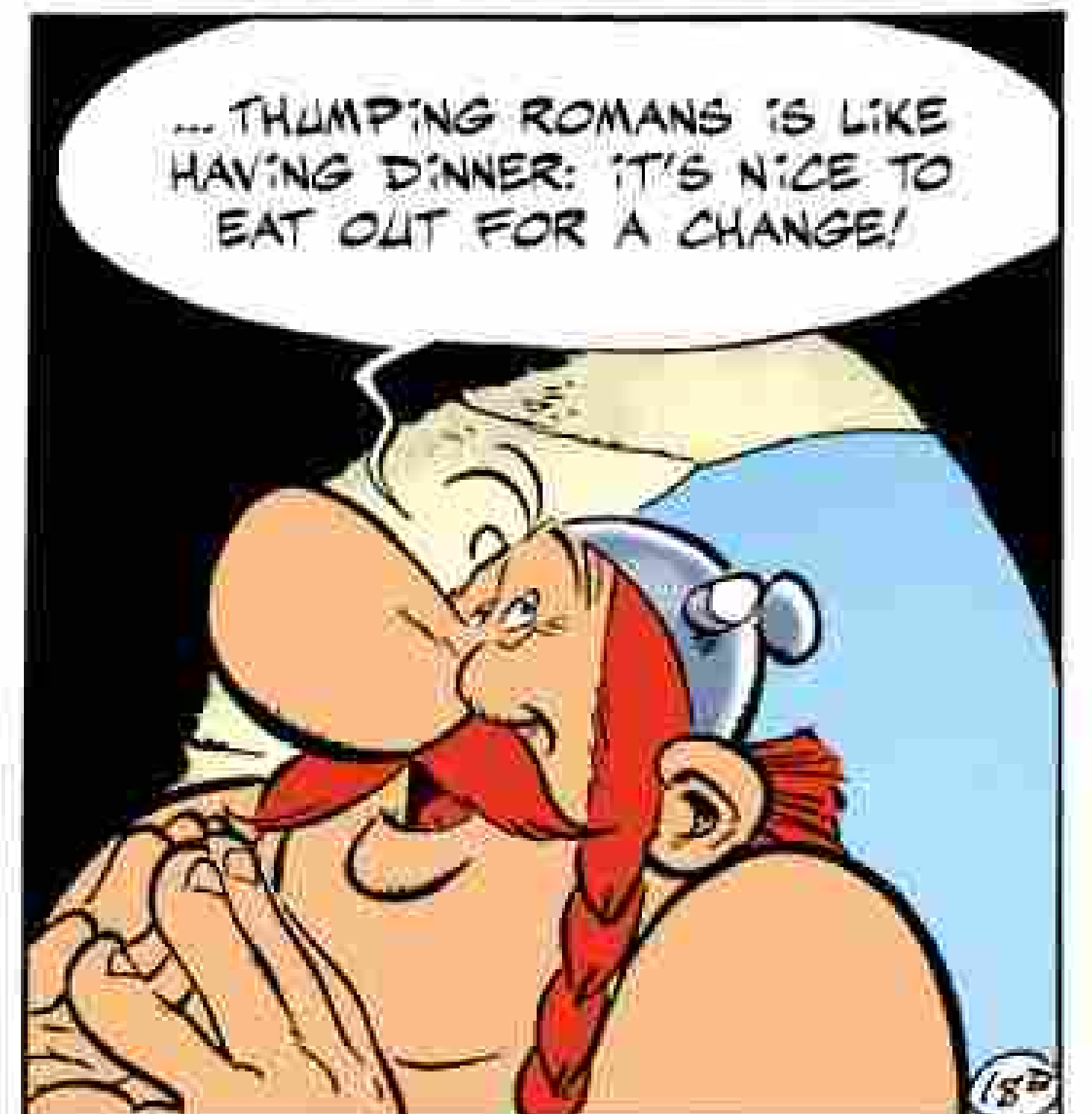
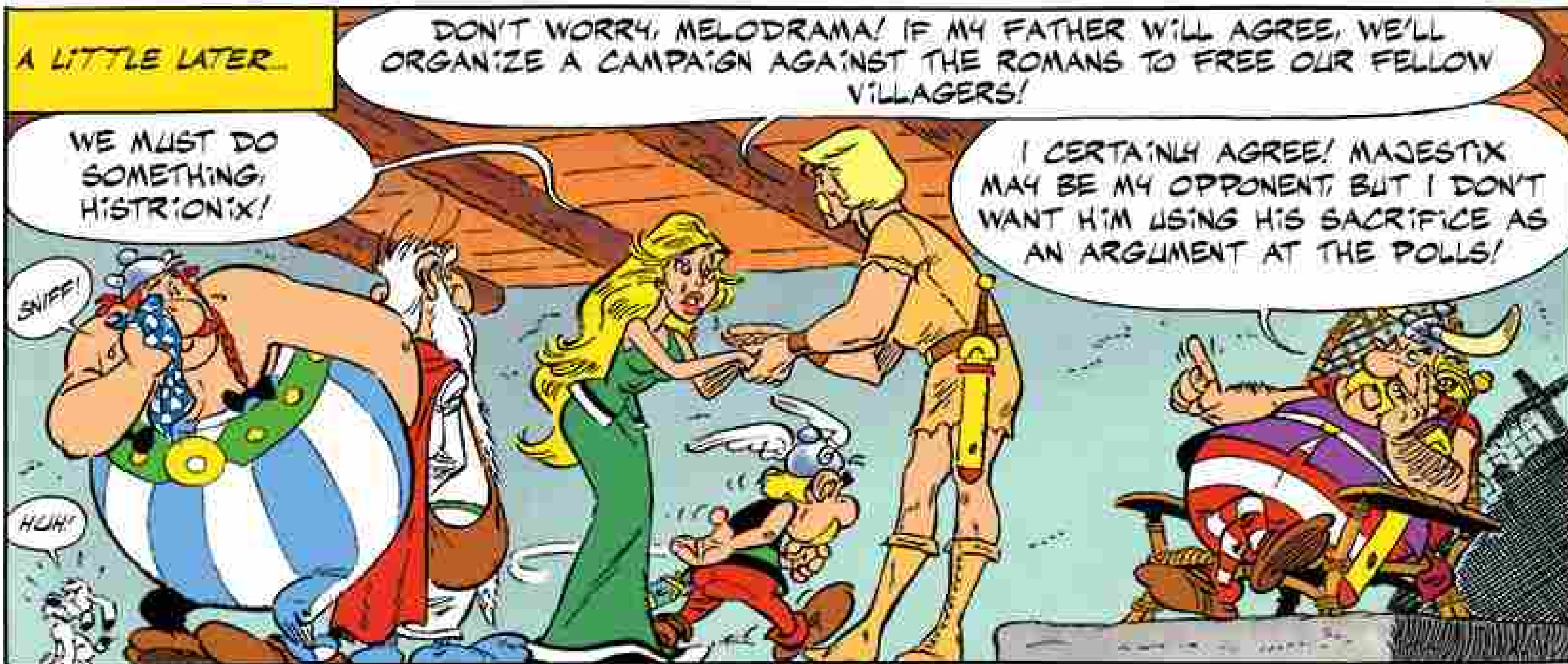
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO IF MAJESTIX AND HIS WARRIORS ARE FIGHTING SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE ROMANS?

THINGS HAVEN'T COME TO THAT YET, AND WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR THE ROMANS TO COME...



THE ROMANS ARE COMING! THE ROMANS ARE COMING!!!





IN THE ROMAN CAMP

WE WILL NEVER BE YOUR SLAVES, ROMAN!

DO YOU KNOW THE PENALTIES FOR A SLAVES' REVOLT? YOU'D BETTER STOP AND THINK, UNLESS YOU WANT TO MAKE THE LIONS IN THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS AT ROME A SQUARE MEAL!

AND WHILE THEY'RE THINKING, CHAIN THEM ALL UP WELL!!!

CAN I HAVE THOSE THREE SENTRY DUTIES BACK? THE ONES YOU SWAPPED FOR MY COOKHOUSE FATIGUE!

PRICES HAVE RISEN... IT'LL BE FOUR SENTRY DUTIES NOW!

MEANWHILE...

GOOD LUCK, FRIENDS!

DON'T WORRY, MELODRAMA! THANKS TO GETAFIX'S KNOW-HOW, OBELIX'S STRENGTH, DOGMATIX'S NOSE AND MY CUNNING, WE'LL SOON HAVE YOUR FATHER HOME!

FUNNY HOW SURE OF THEMSELVES CLEVERDIX'S ALLIES SEEM! I'LL FOLLOW THEM AT A SAFE DISTANCE!

DOGMATIX HAS BEEN SNIFFING ABOUT EVER SINCE WE LEFT! I THINK HE'S PICKED UP THE SCENT OF A BOAR!

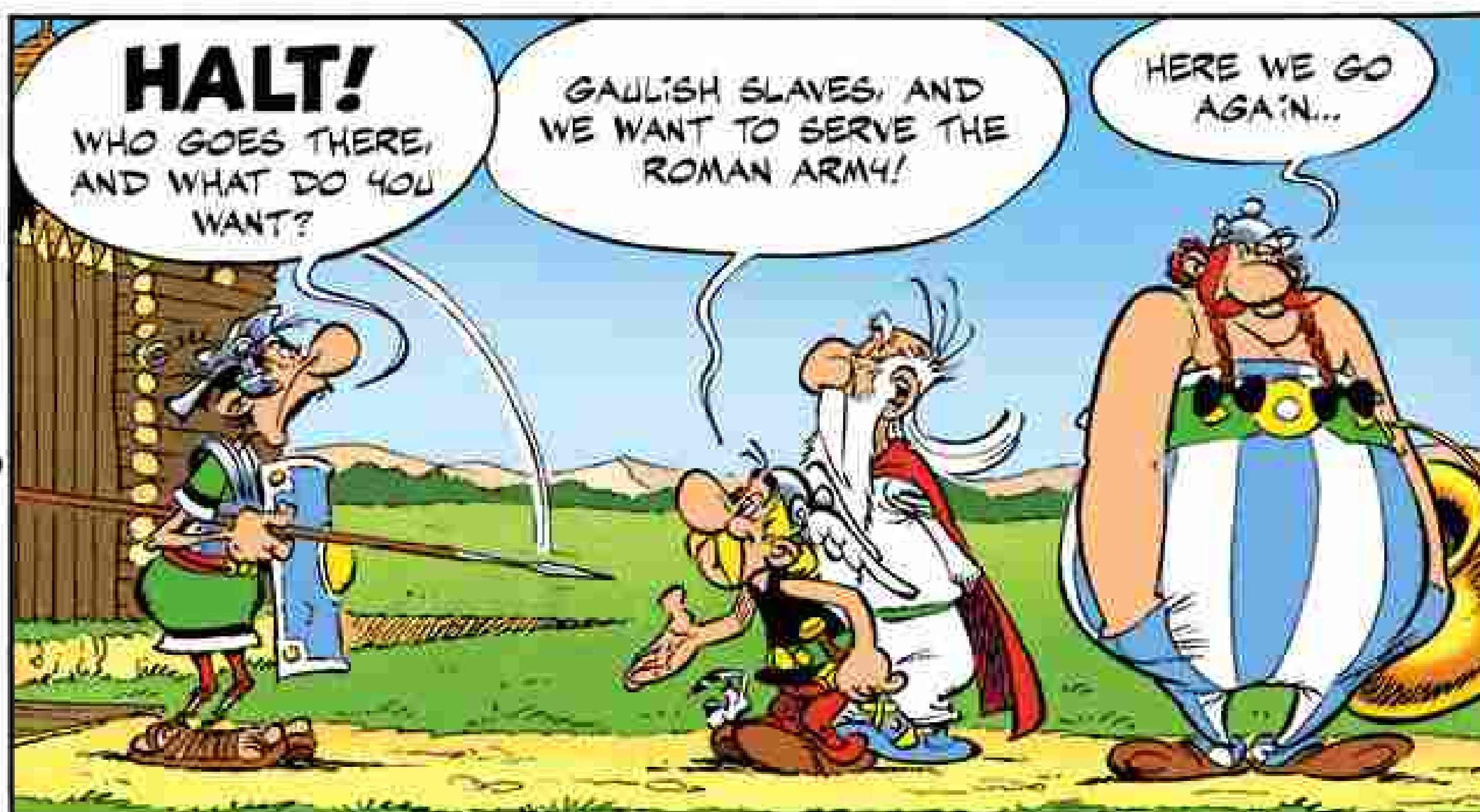
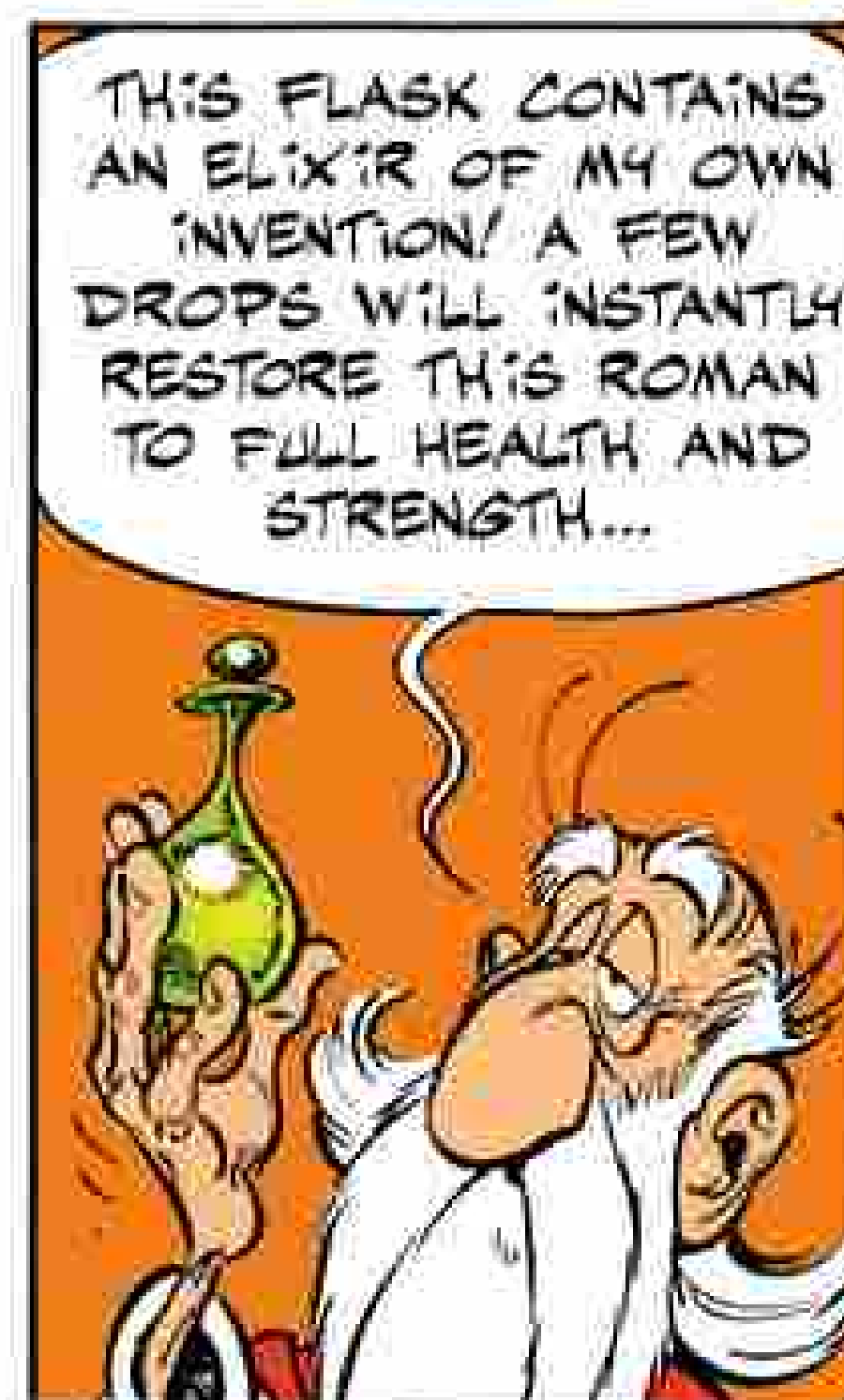
NO, NO, IT'S JUST A RED HERRING.

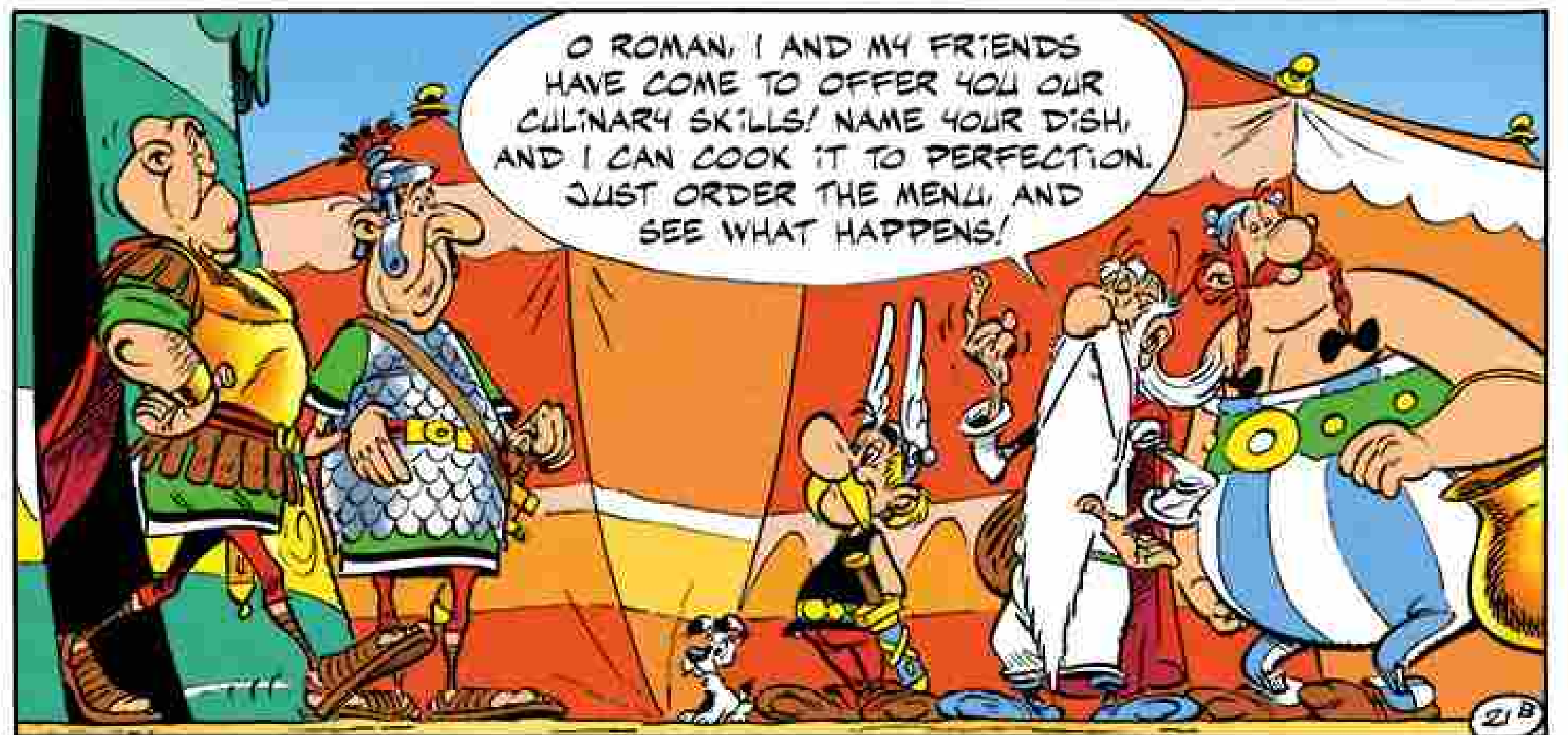
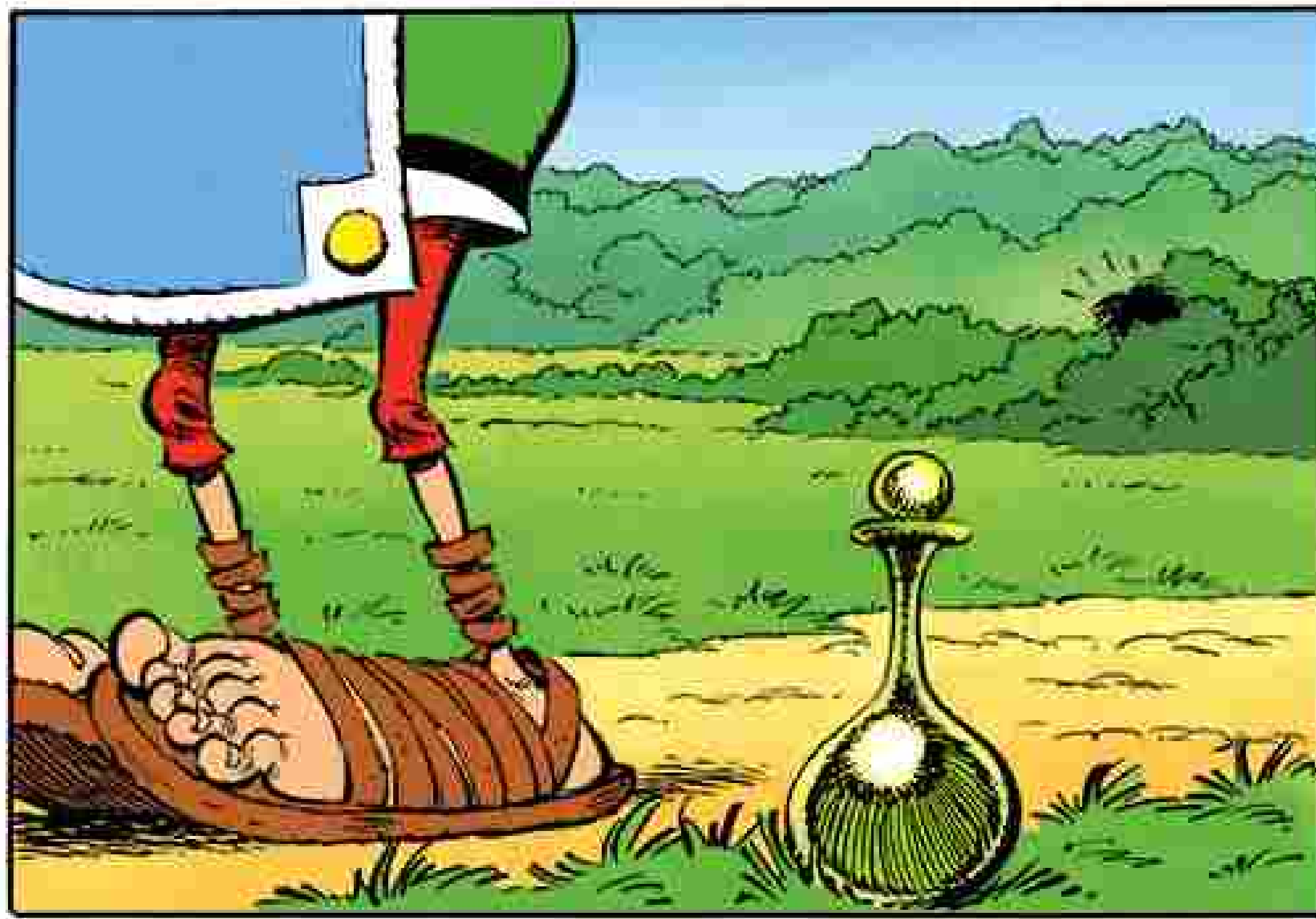
IF SO, IT'S BEEN TAKING CODLIVER OIL!

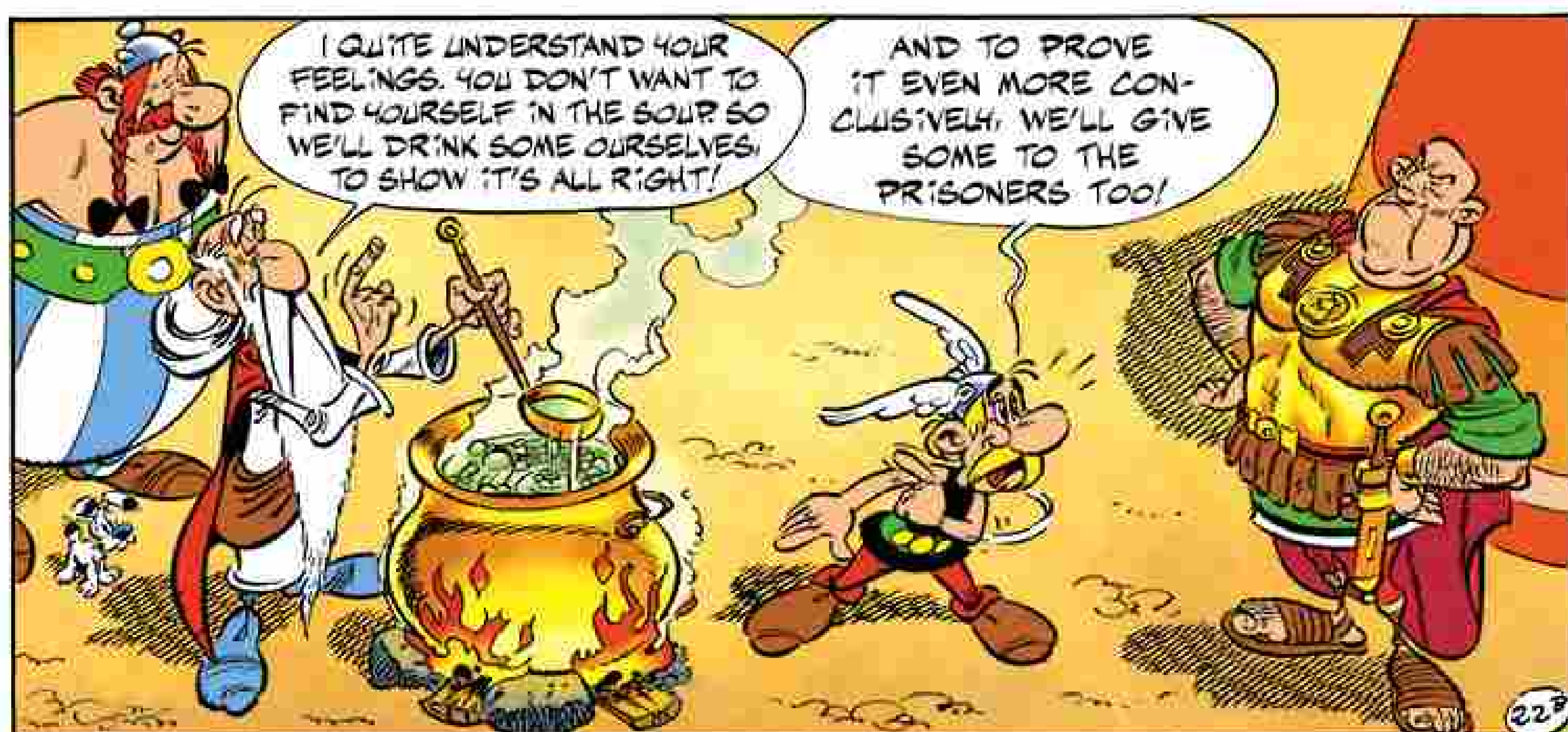
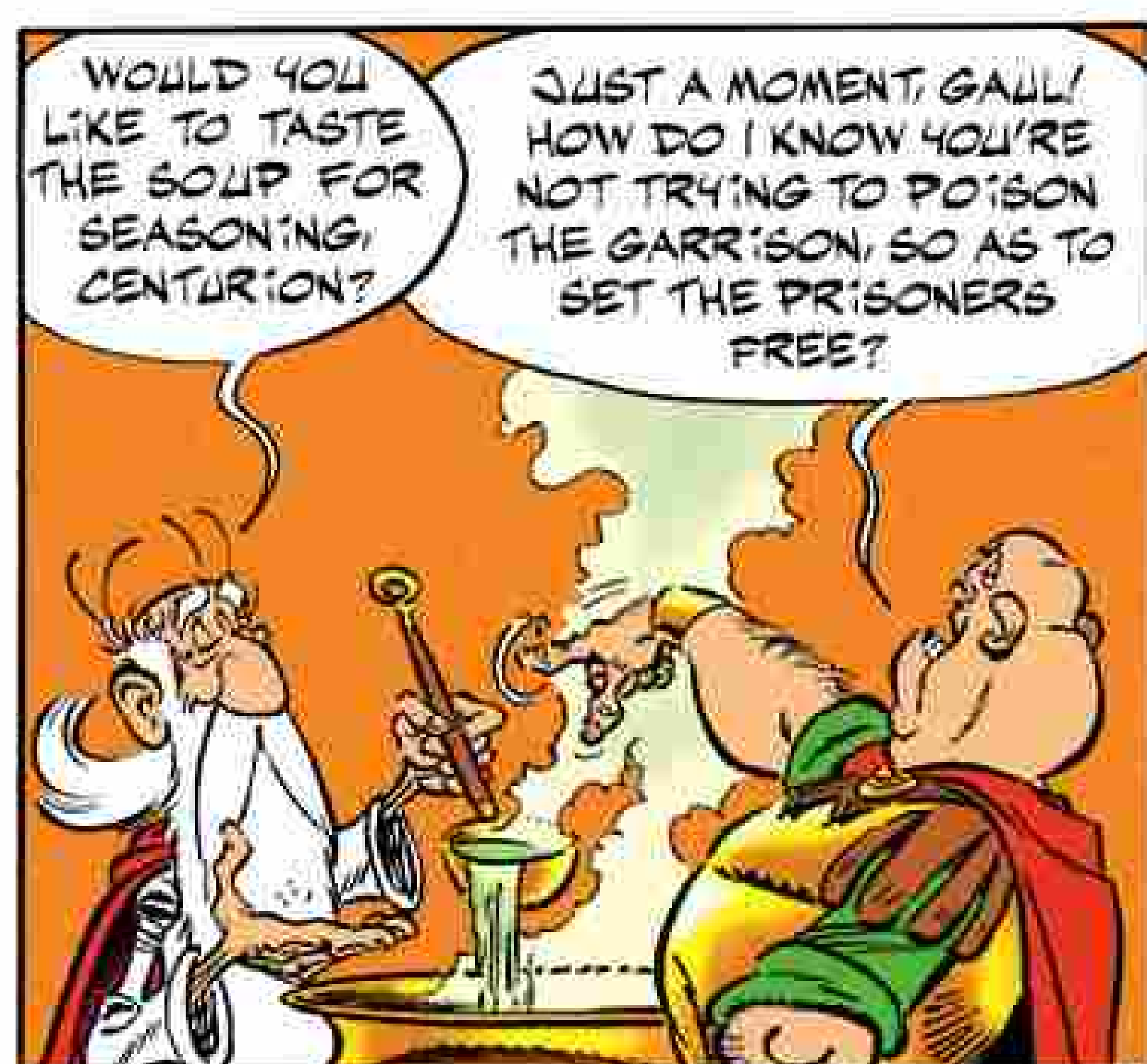
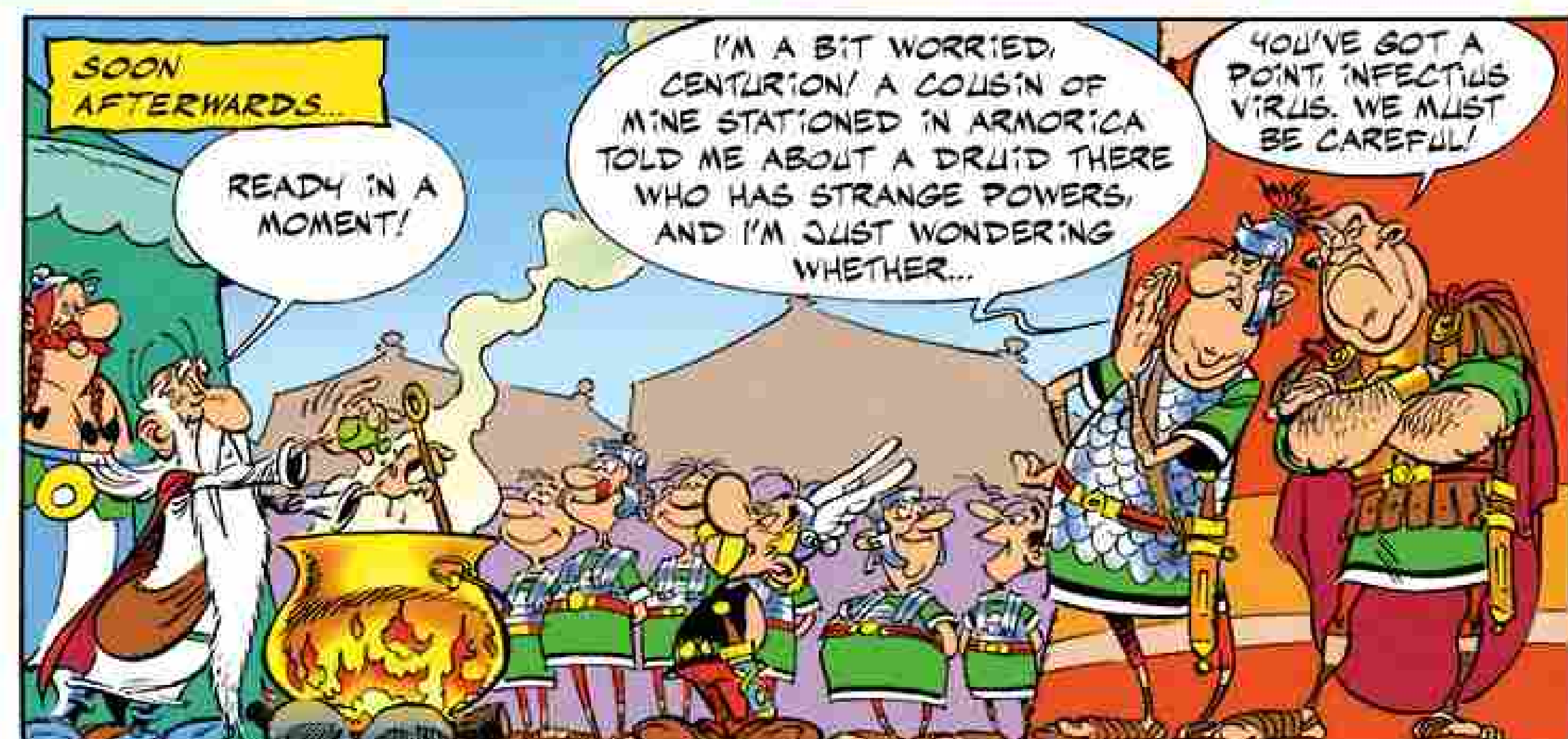
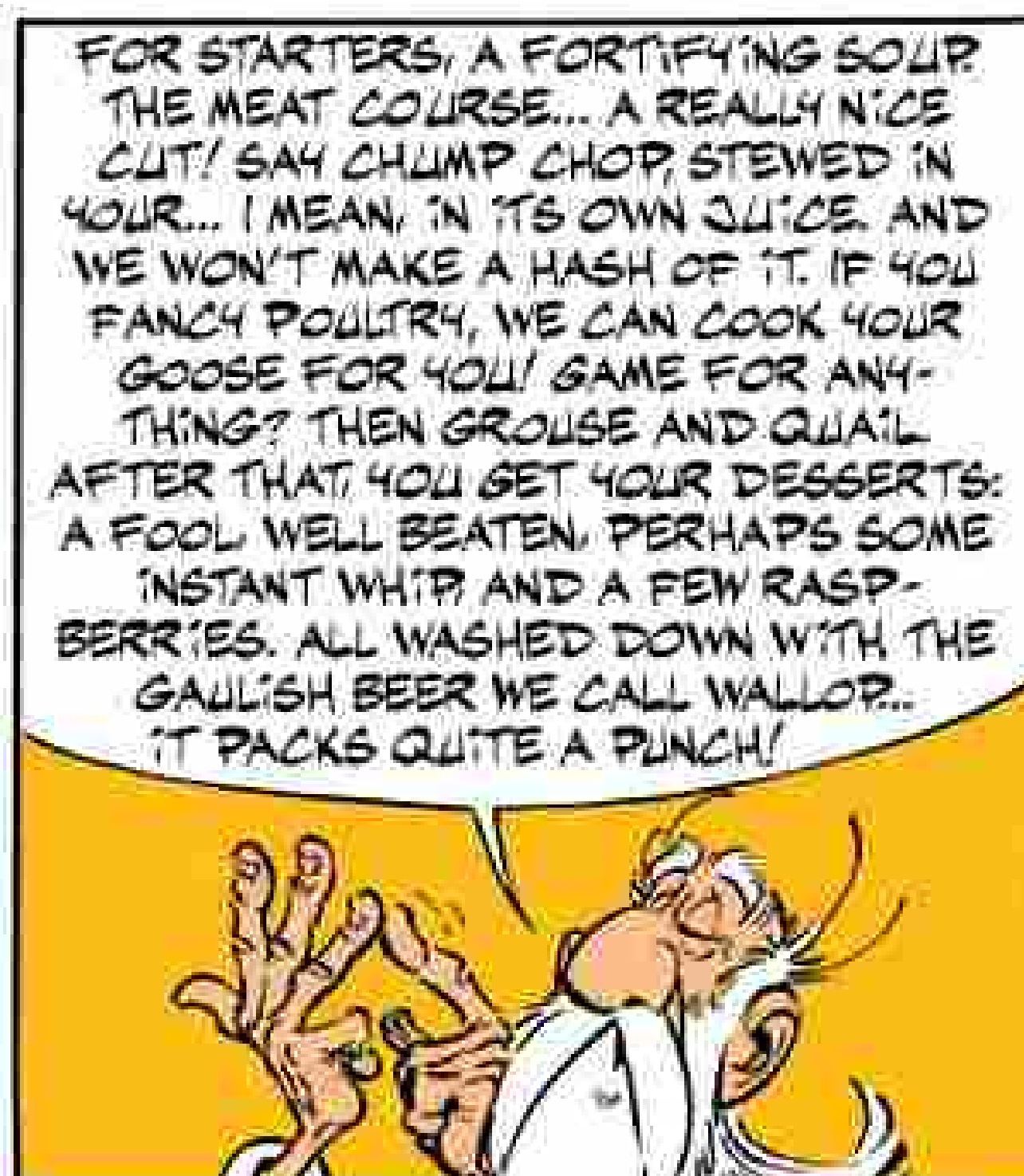
RIGHT, YOU GET THE IDEA, OBELIX? WE'RE HUMBLE SLAVES, SO NO THUMPING THE ROMANS!

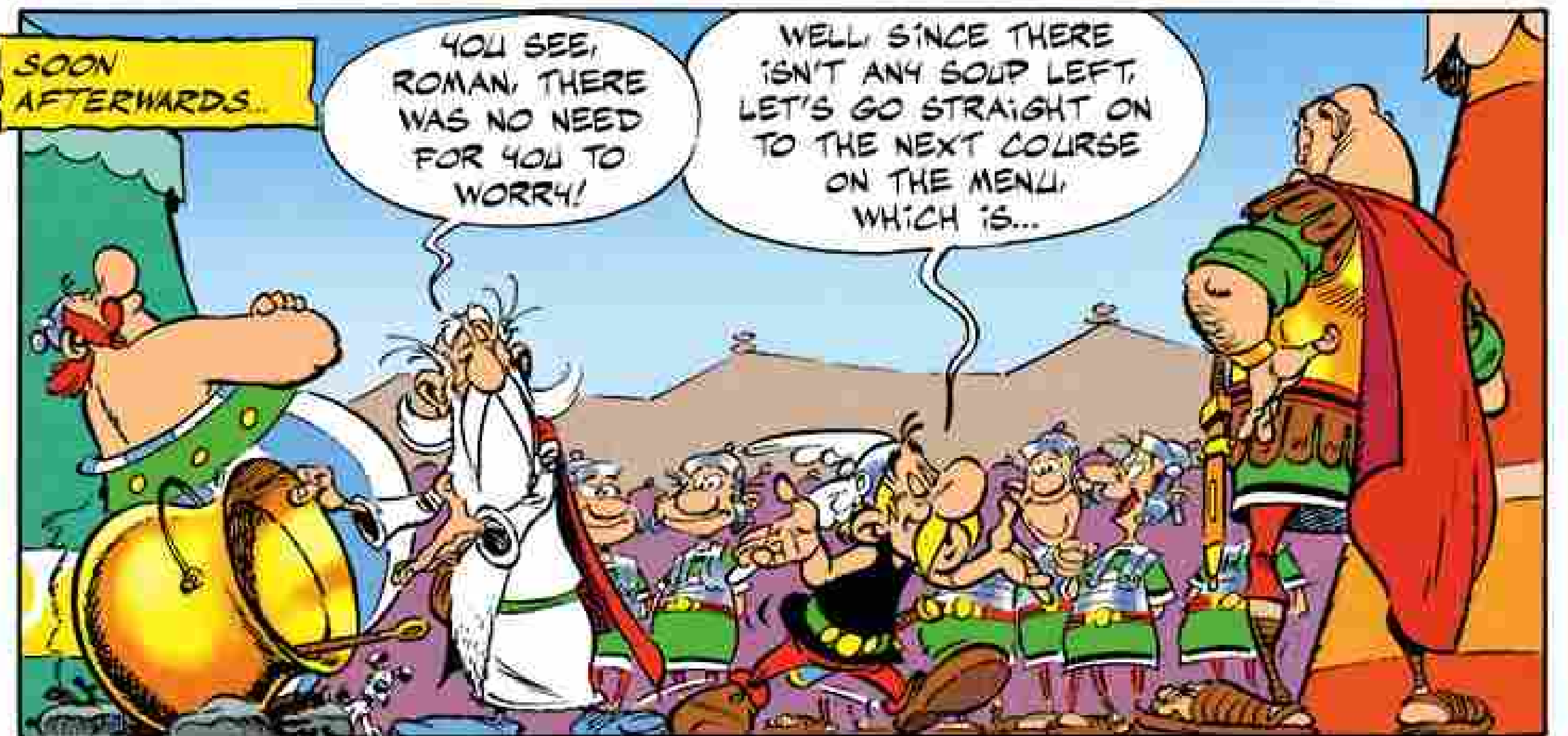
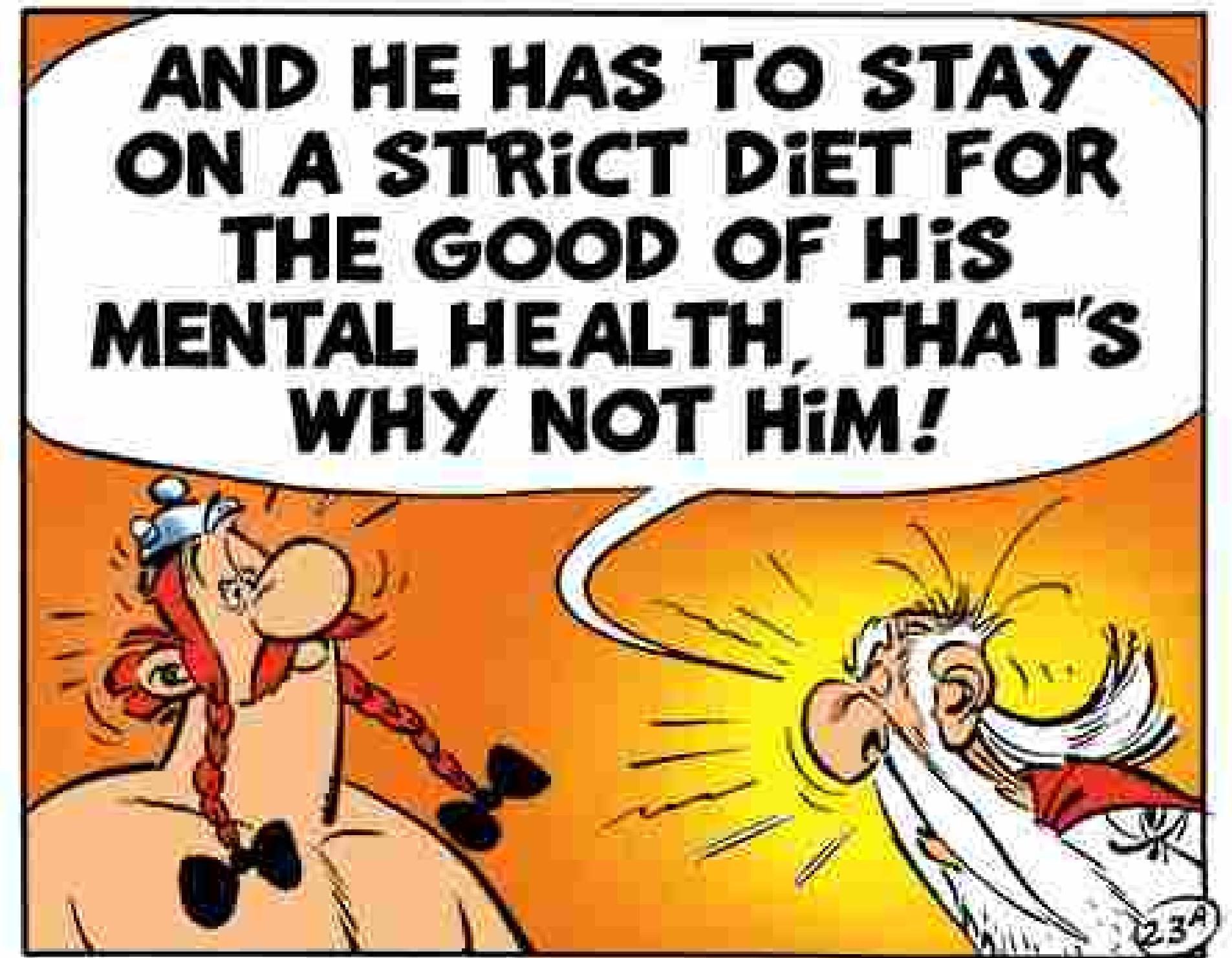
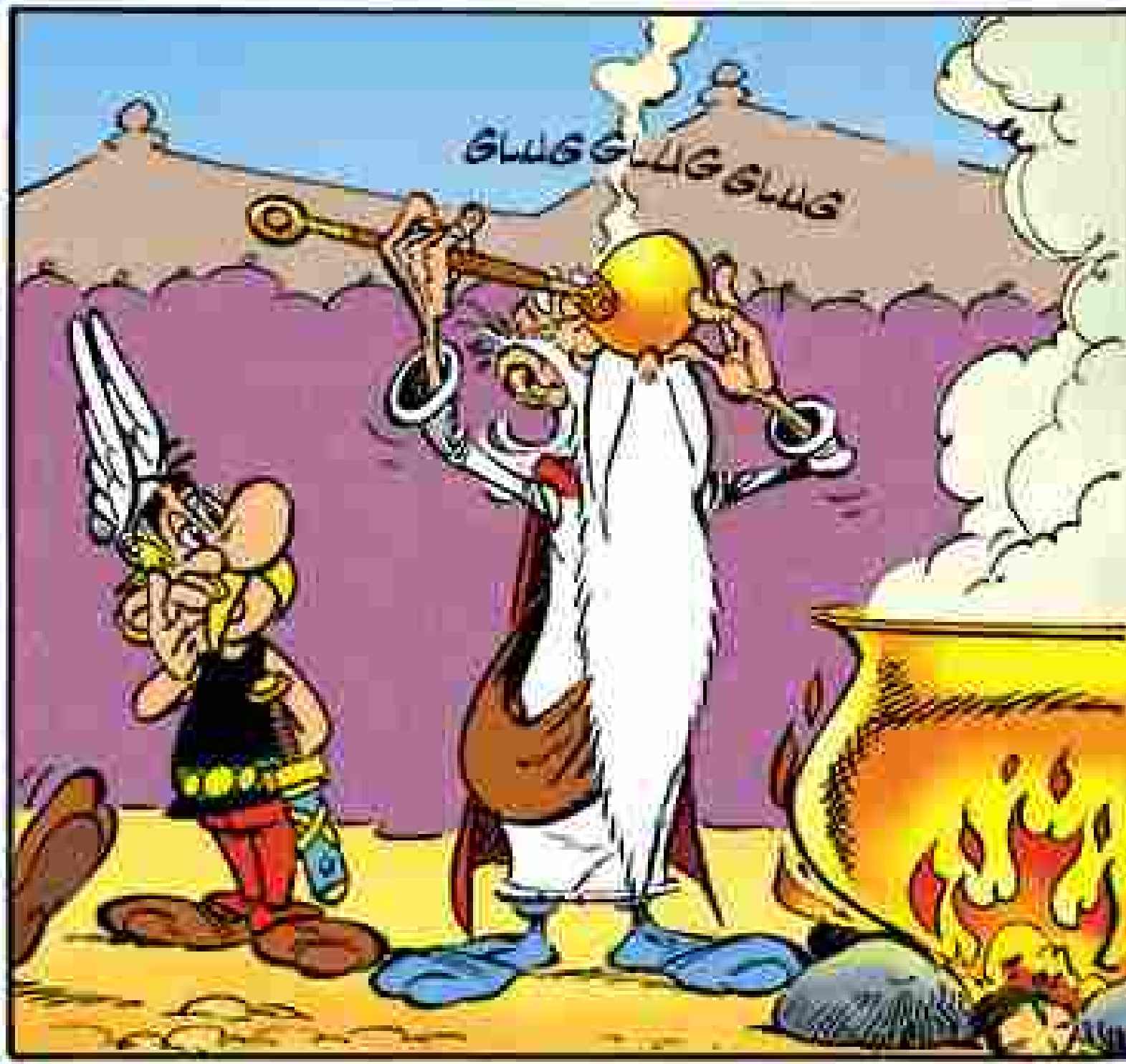
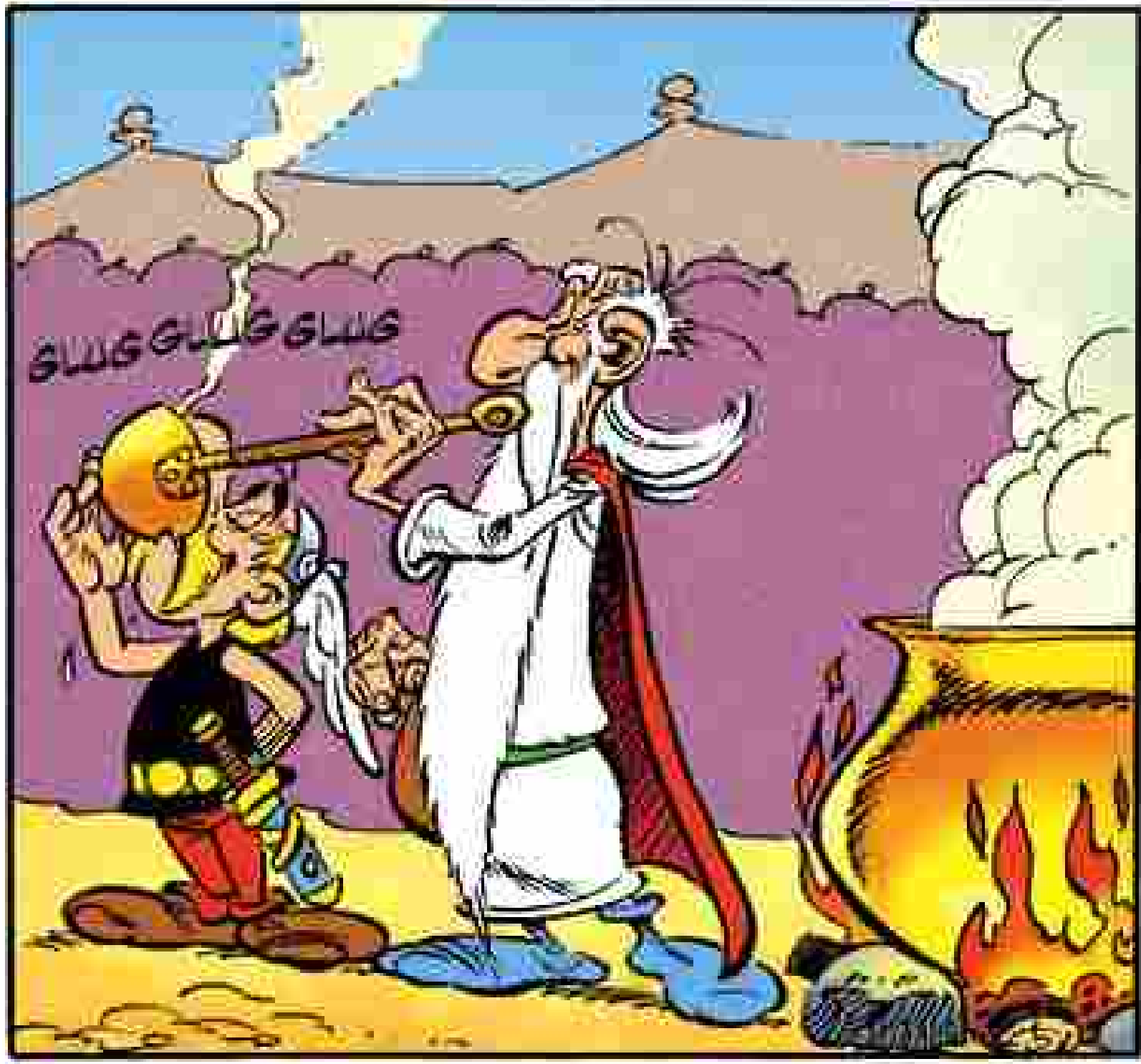
LISTEN, ASTERIX...

...IS THERE SUCH A THING AS A SLAVE-DOG?

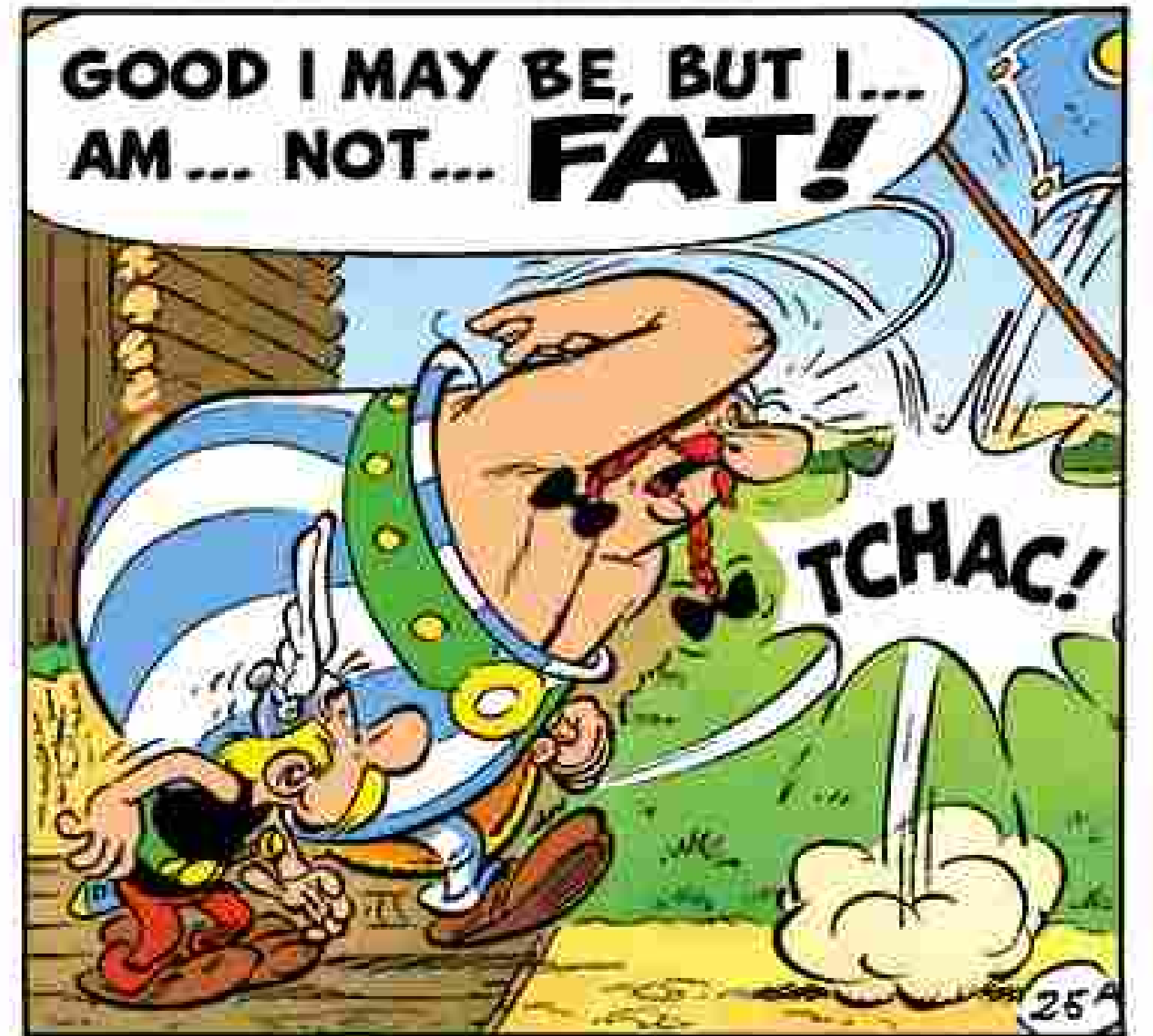
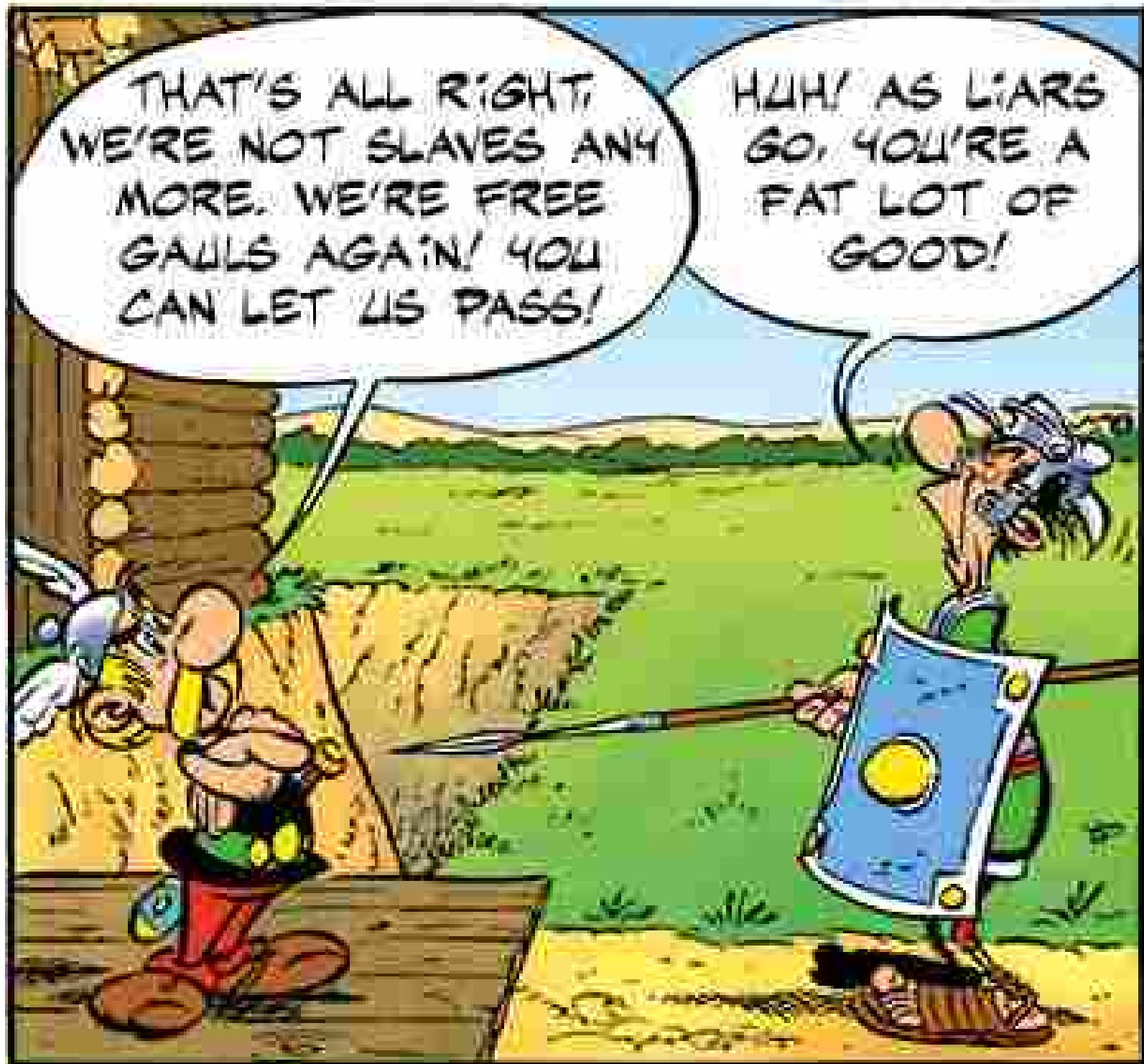


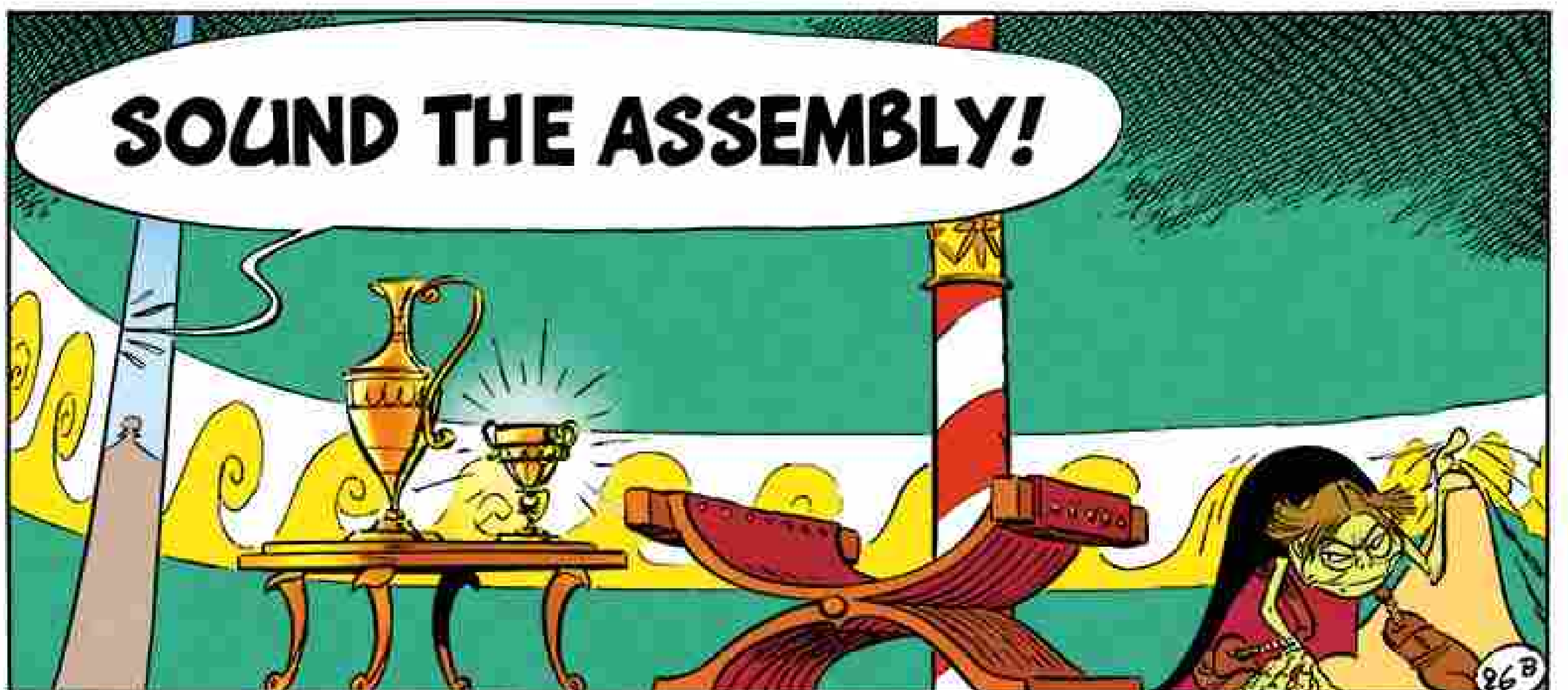
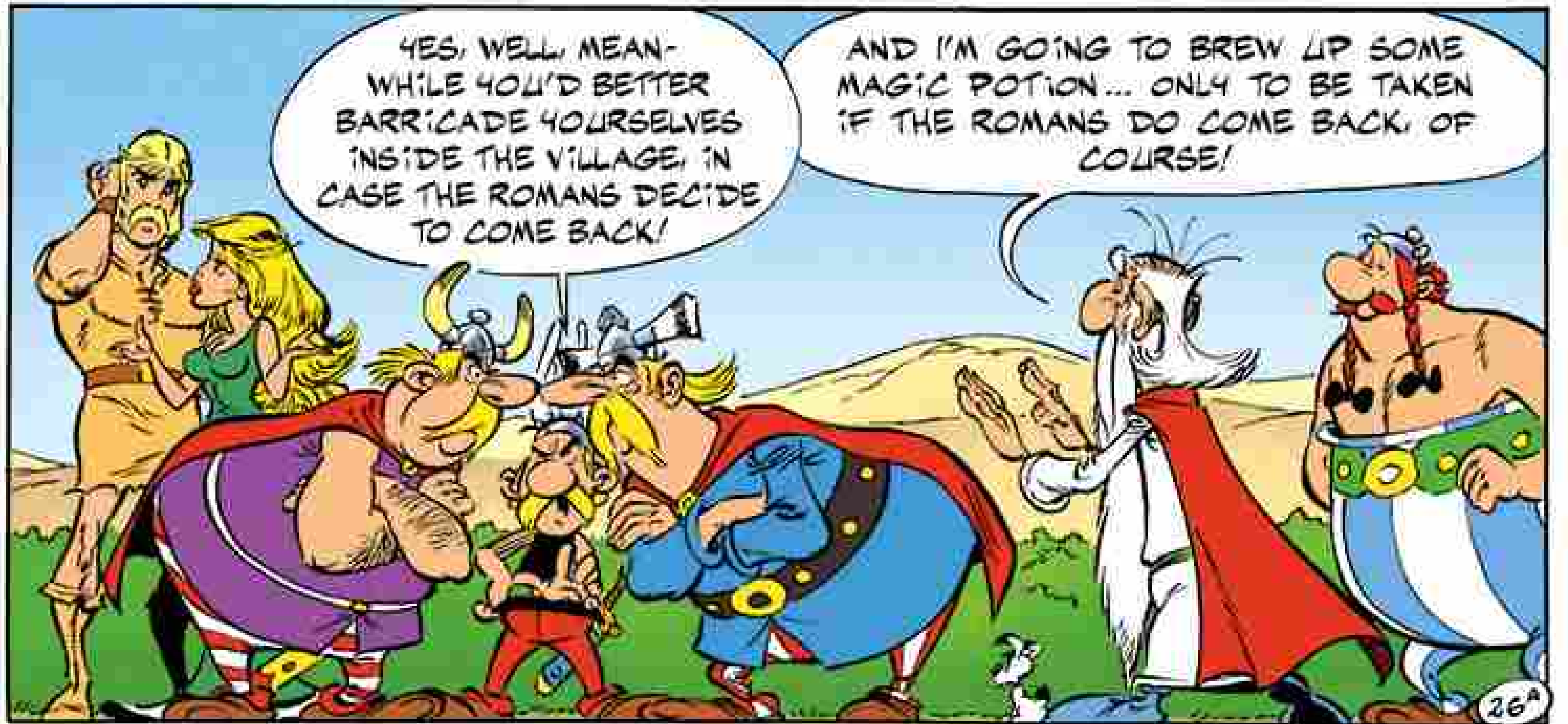
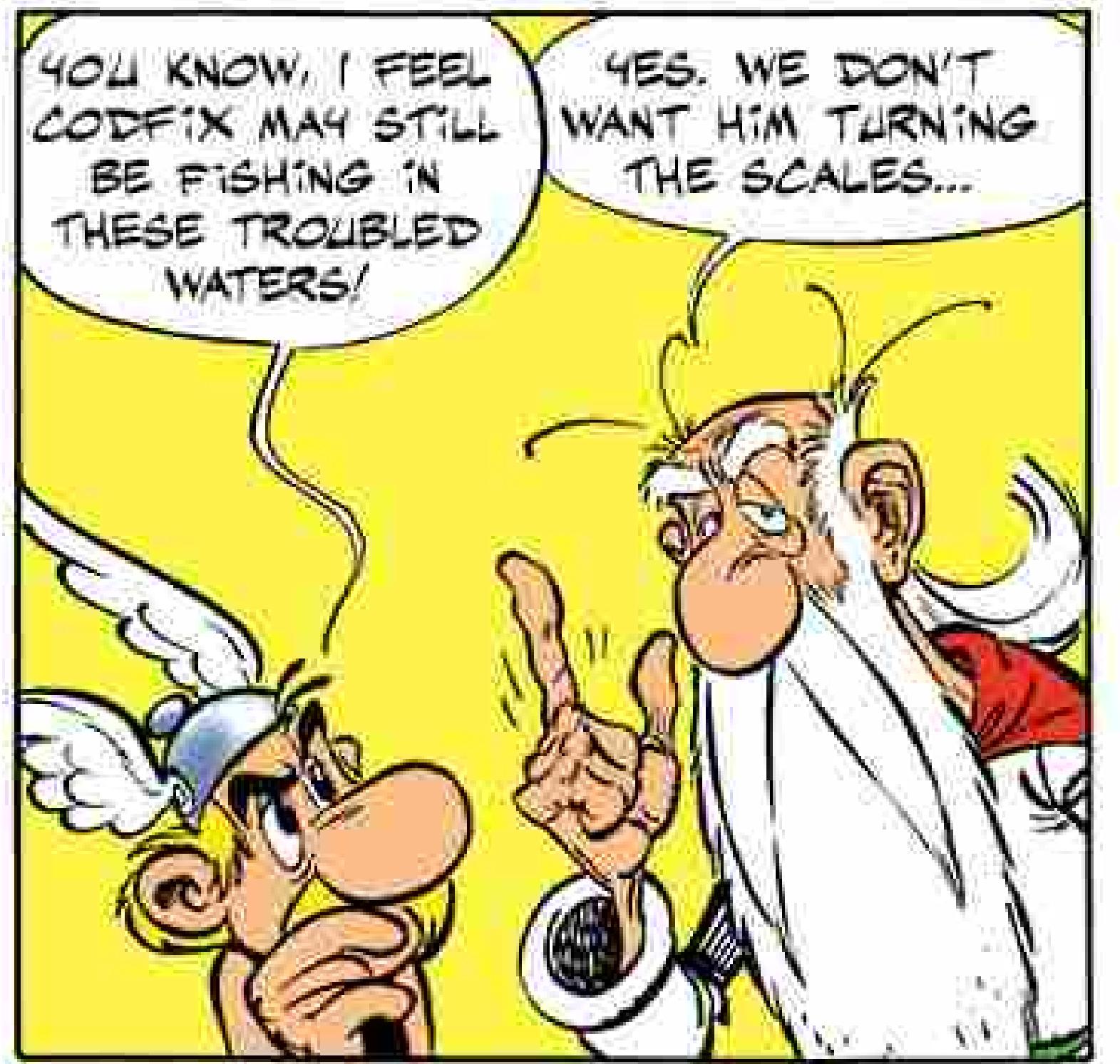


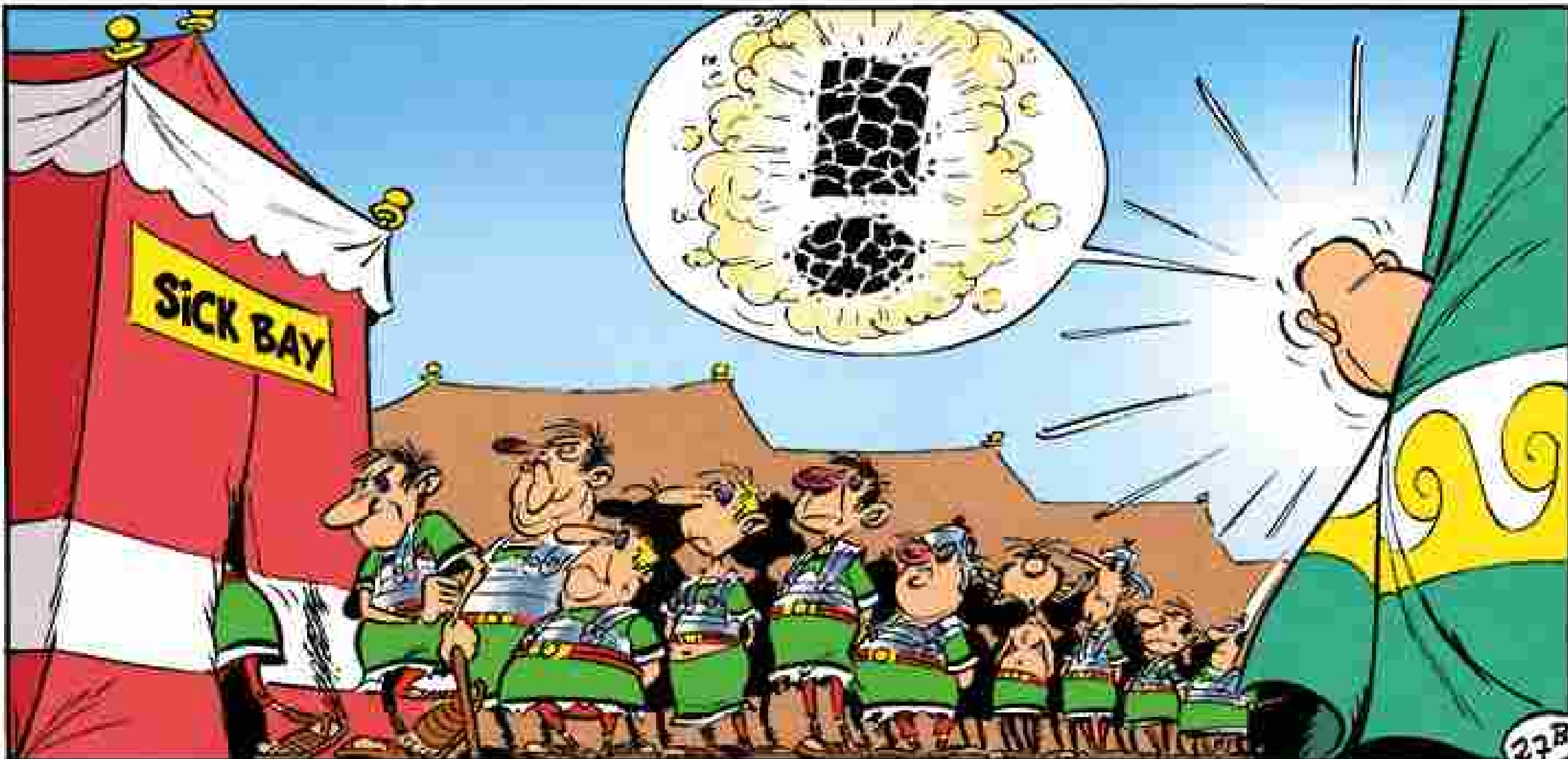


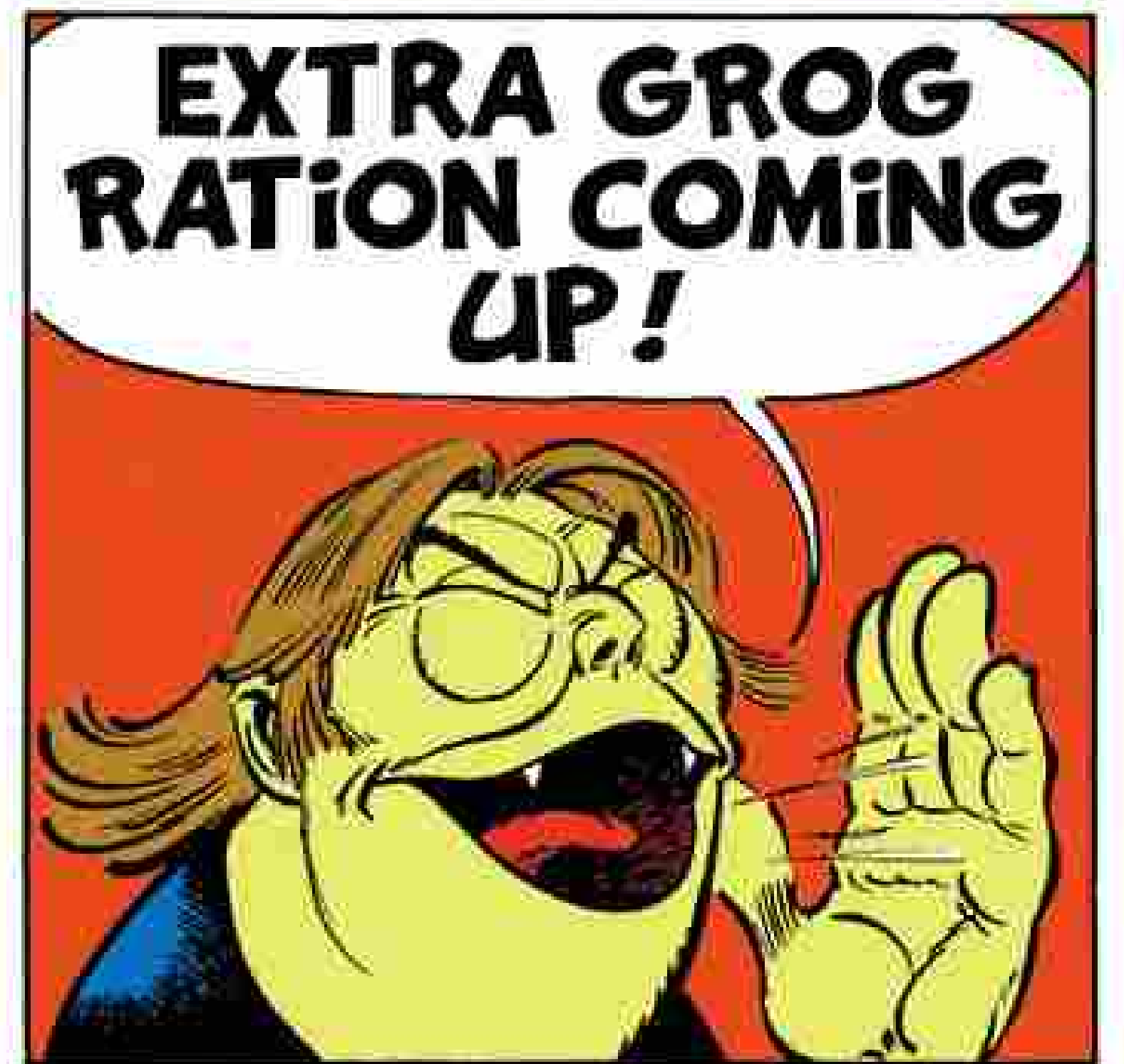
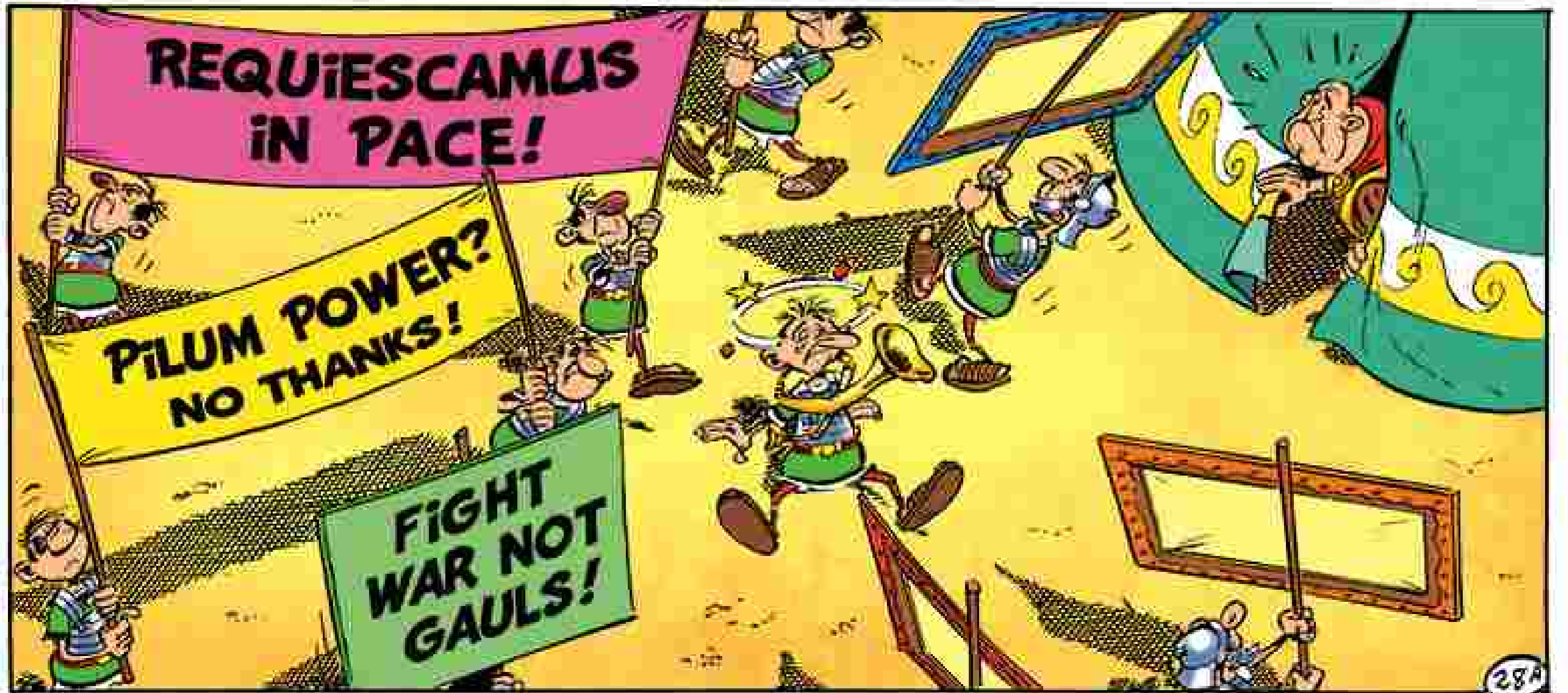














AND THAT NIGHT, ON THE
OUTSKIRTS OF THE WOOD NEAR
THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

I DON'T TRUST THAT DRUID
AND HIS SECRET WEAPONS!
I THINK I'D BETTER GO
SCOUTING AHEAD BEFORE
WE ATTACK!

AND WHATEVER YOU
DO, DON'T MOVE TILL
I GET BACK!

RIGHT,
BUT HURRY UP!
I CAN'T WAIT TO GET
MY REVENGE ON THOSE
GAULS!



THE GODS OF THE
UNDERWORLD ARE ON MY
SIDE! IT'S THAT FOOL
CONGENITALIDIOTIX ON
SENTRY DUTY! I'LL SOON
DEAL WITH HIM!

**HALT!
WHO GOES
THERE?**

IT'S ME,
CODFIX.

I MIGHT HAVE
KNOWN FROM THE
SMELL! WHAT DO
YOU WANT?

I WANT TO ASK
CHIEF MAJESTIX
TO FORGIVE ME!

YOU CAN COME IN, BUT IF I WERE
YOU I'D KEEP MY DISTANCE FROM
MAJESTIX!

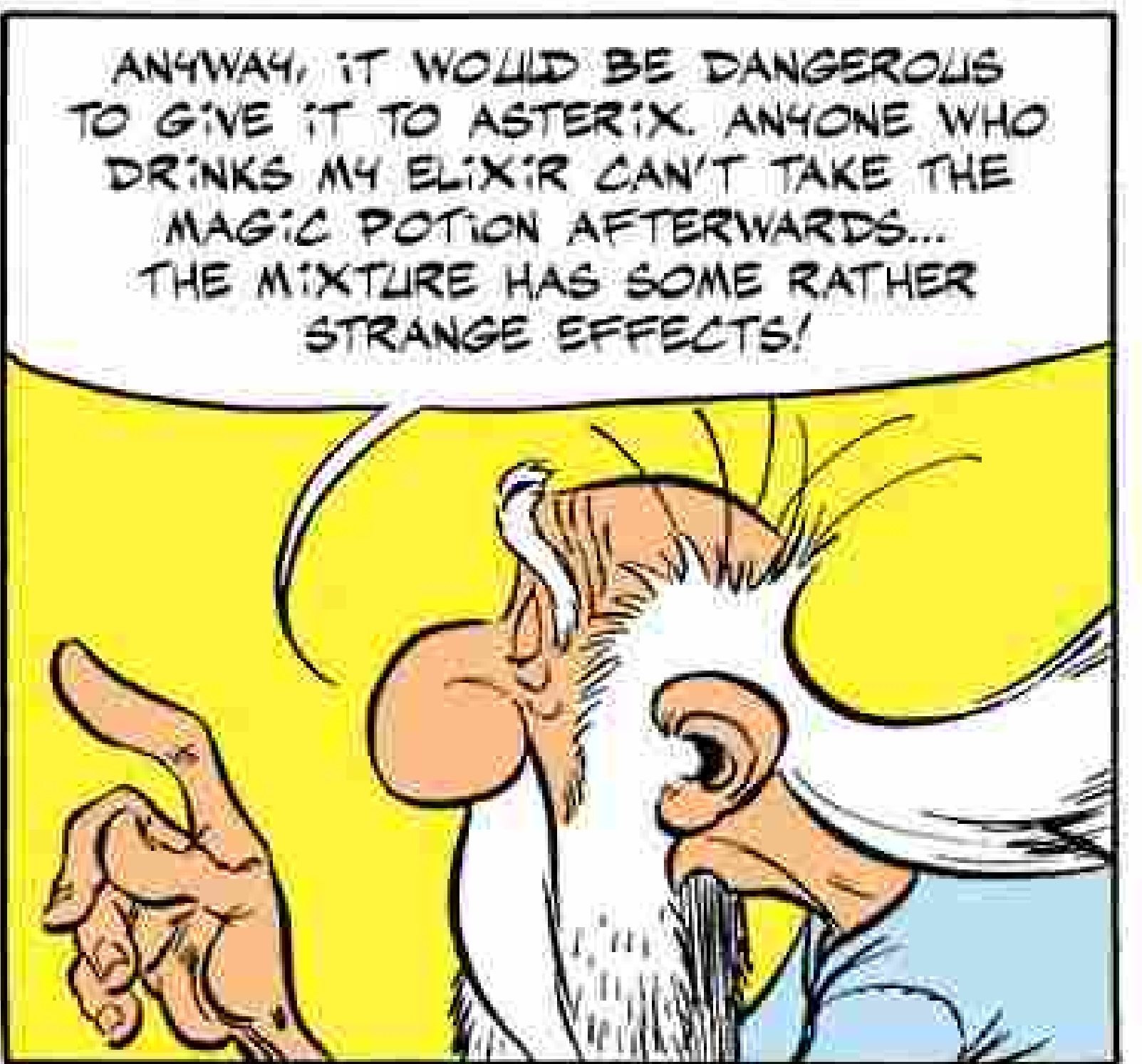
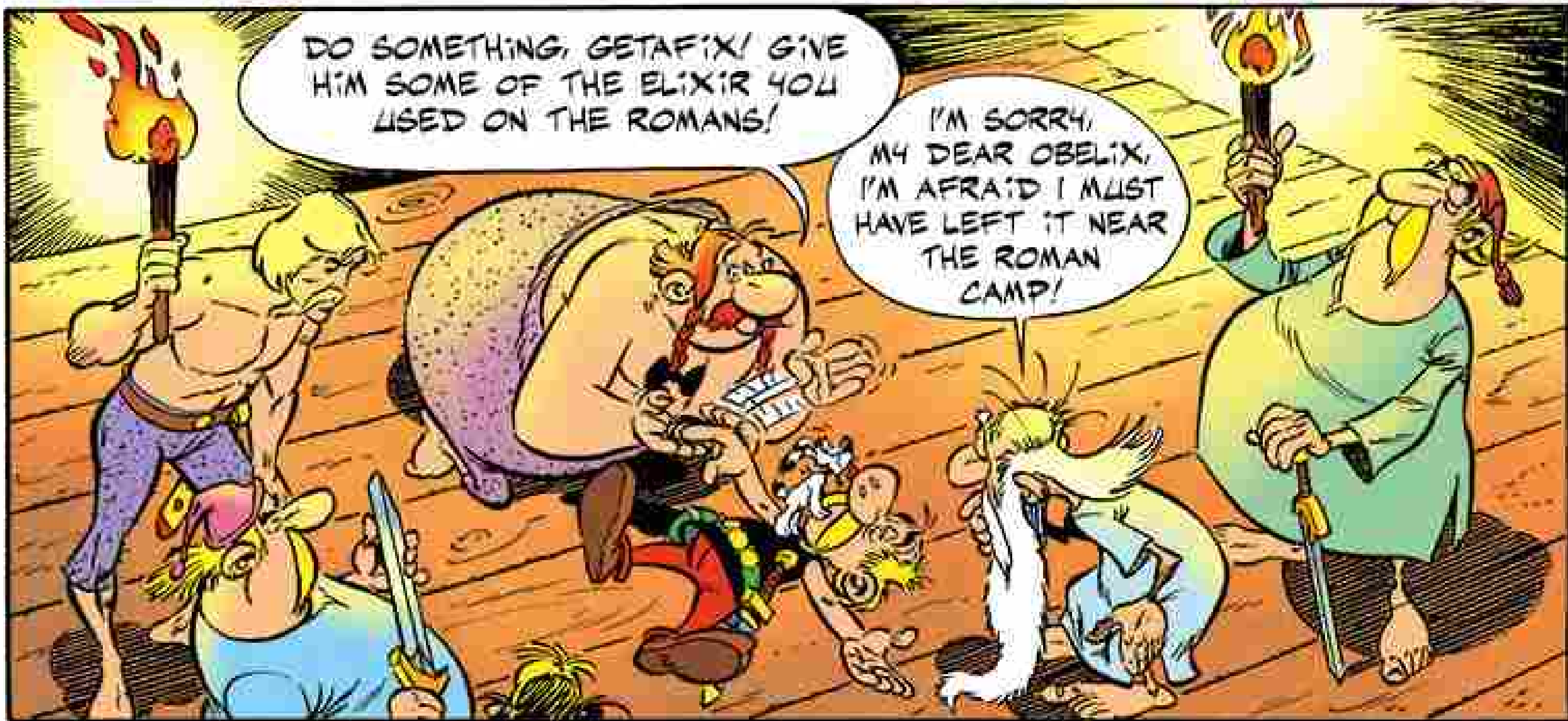
WHY ARE YOU
MOUNTING GUARD
LIKE THIS? WHAT
ARE YOU AFRAID
OF?

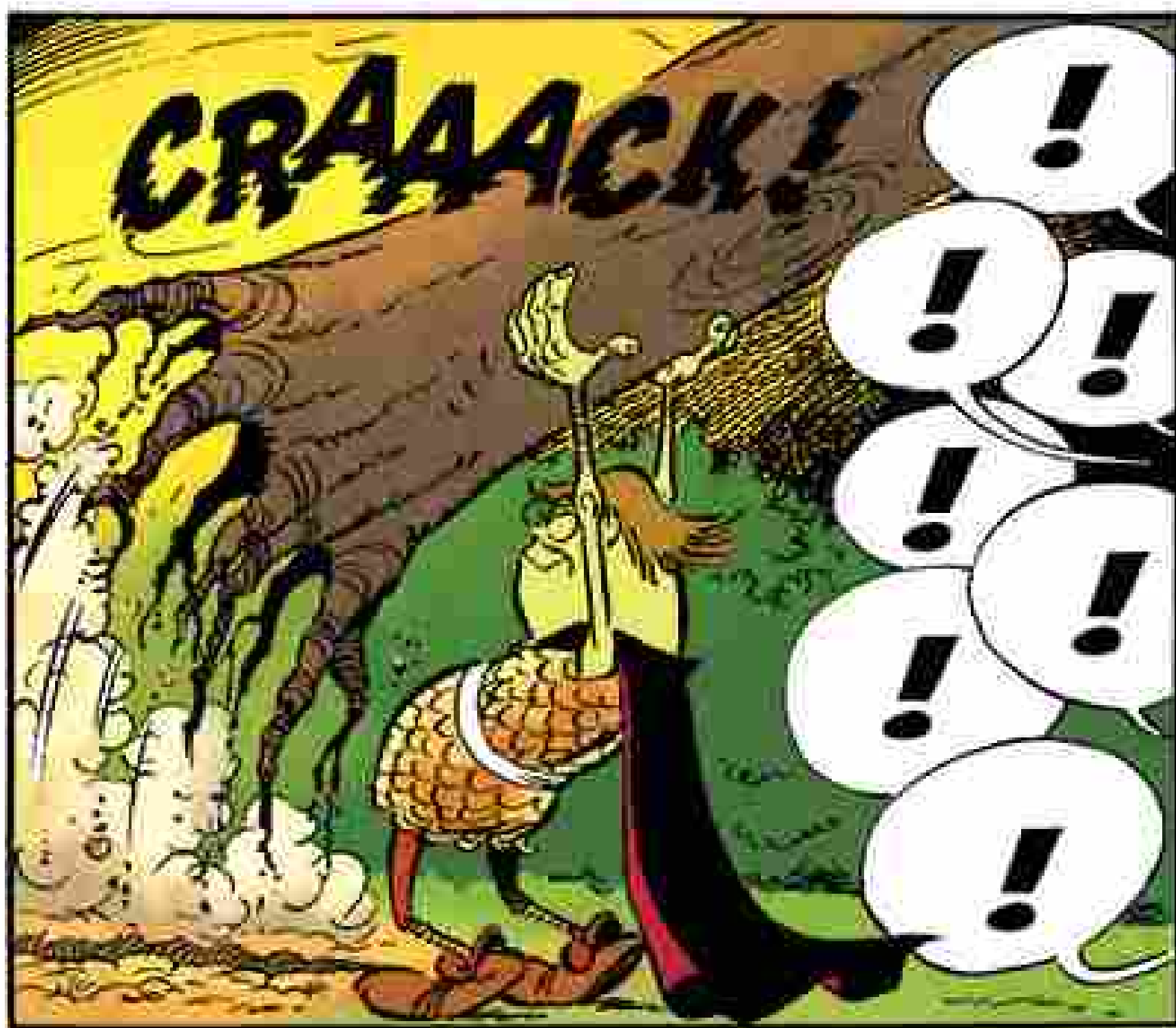
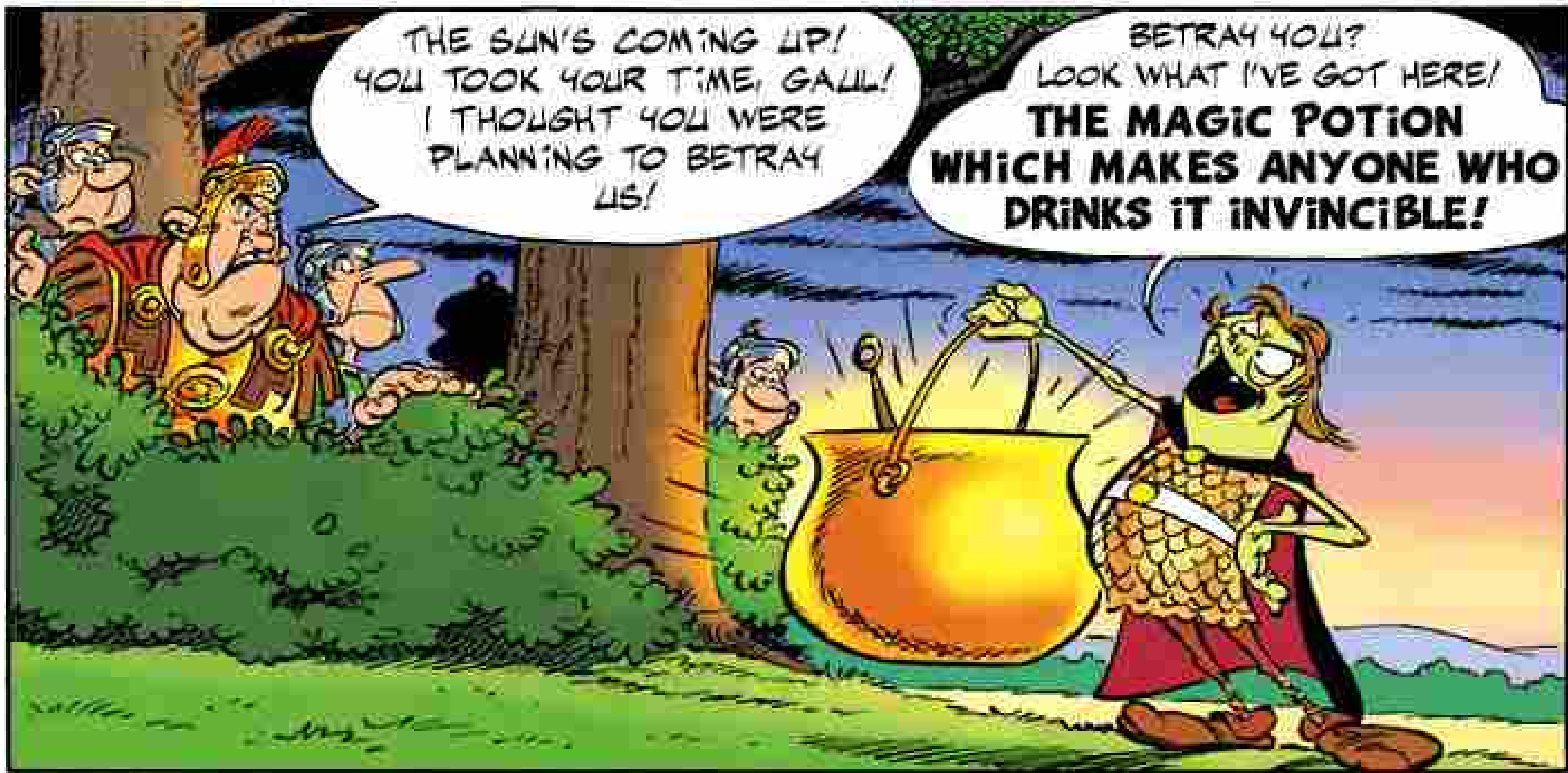
WE'RE AFRAID THE ROMANS
MAY COME BACK. BUT LUCKILY
GETAFIX THE DRUID HAS MADE
US SOME OF HIS MAGIC POTION.
IT'S SAFE IN SCHIZOPHRENIX'S
HUT!

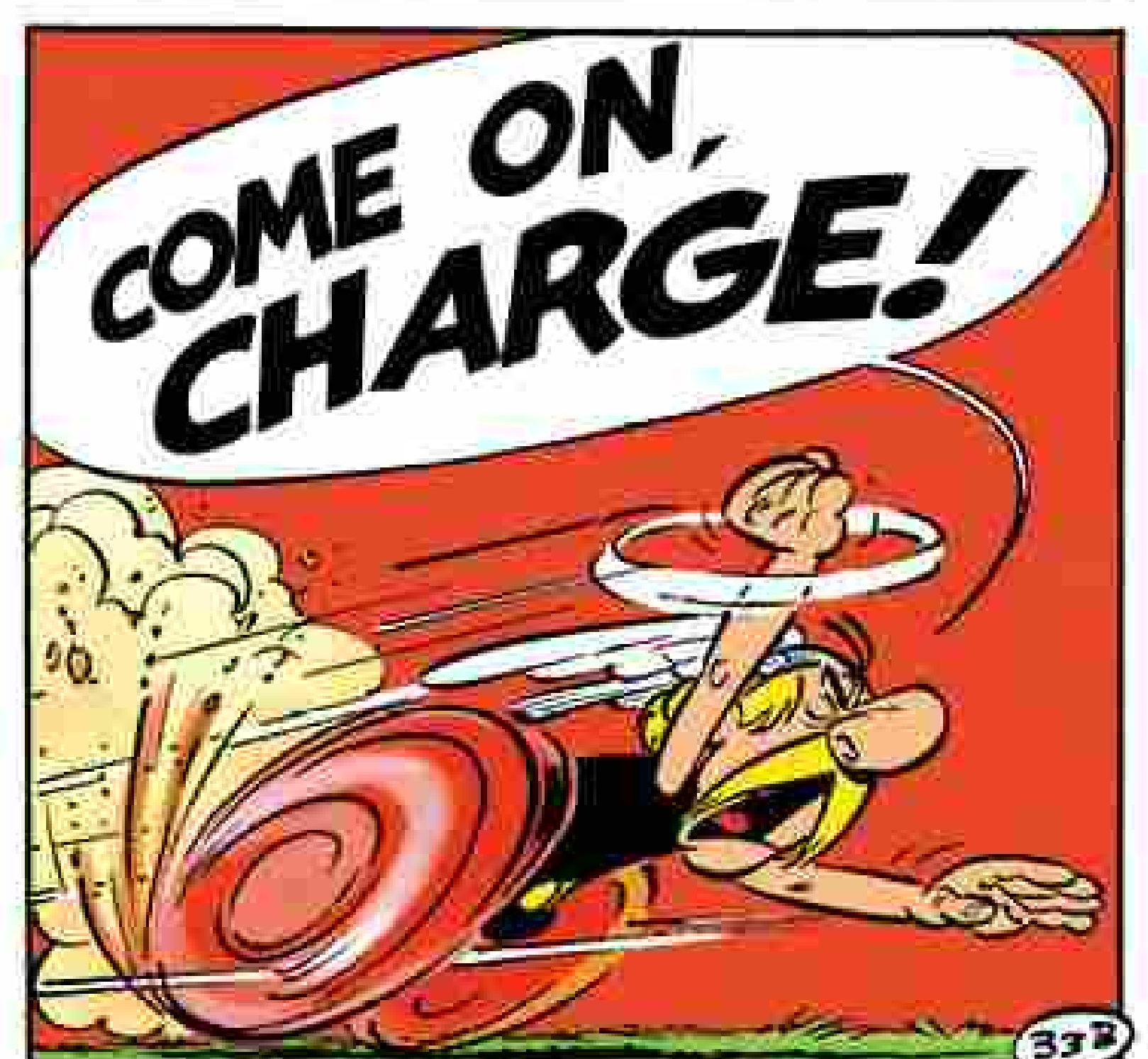
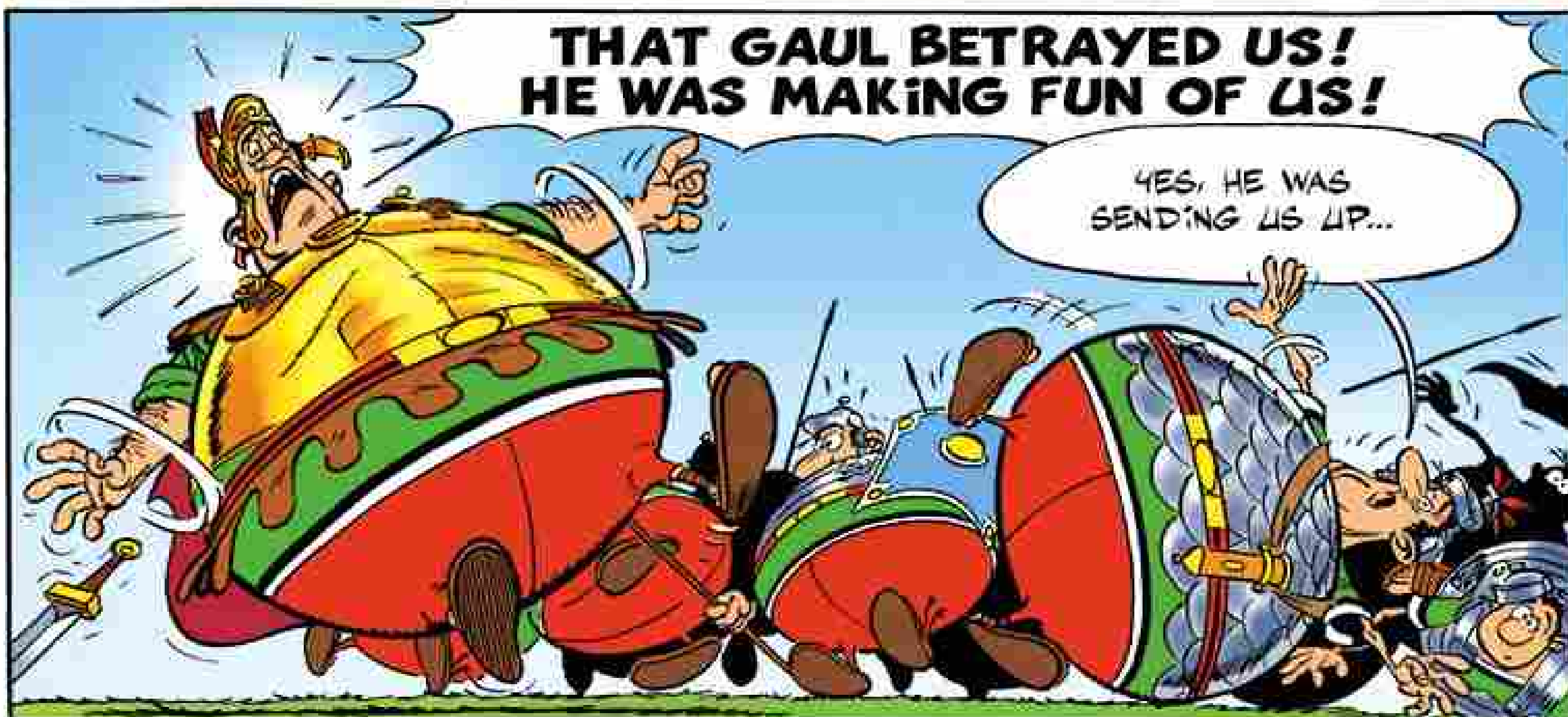
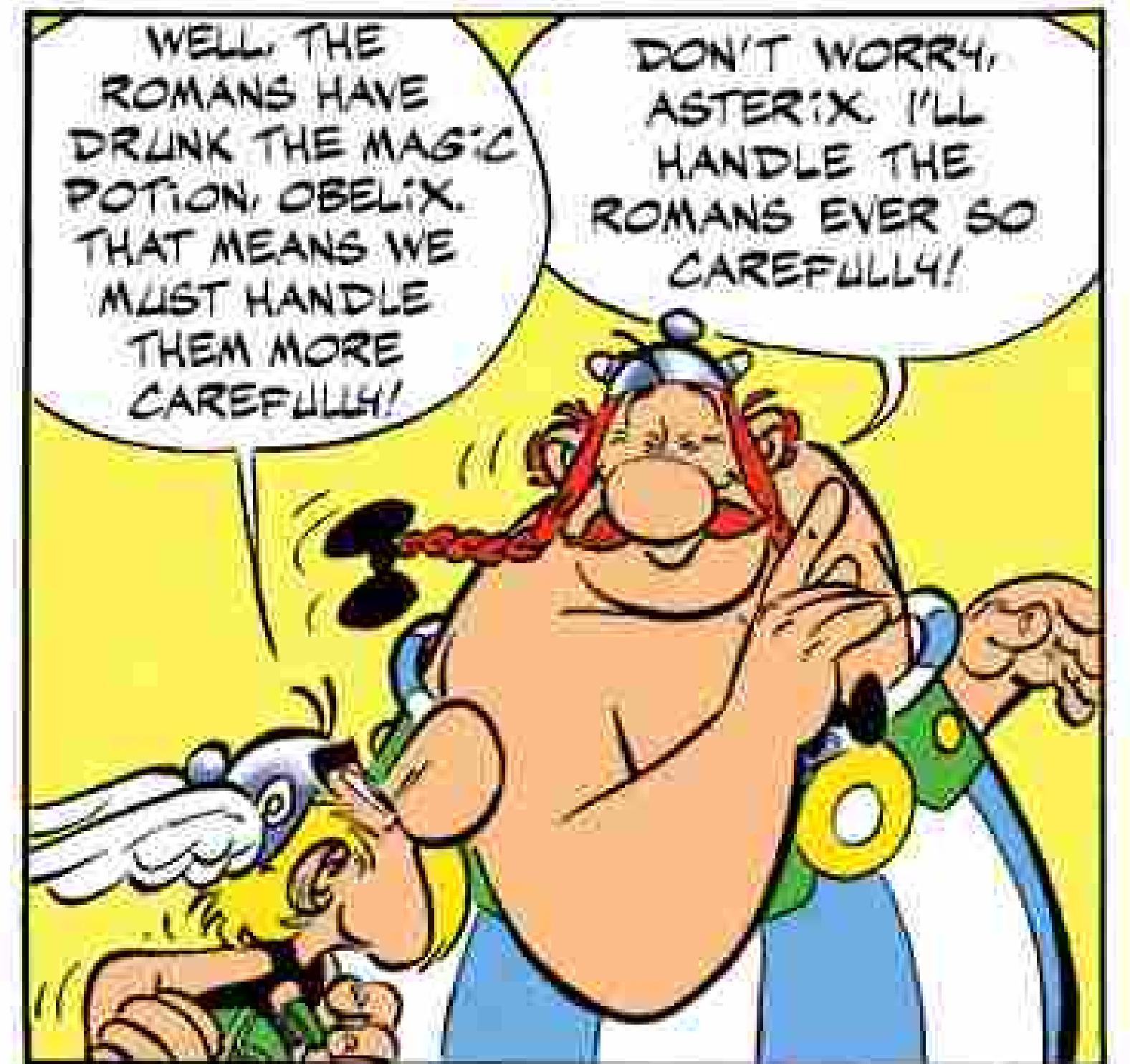
TEEHEE!

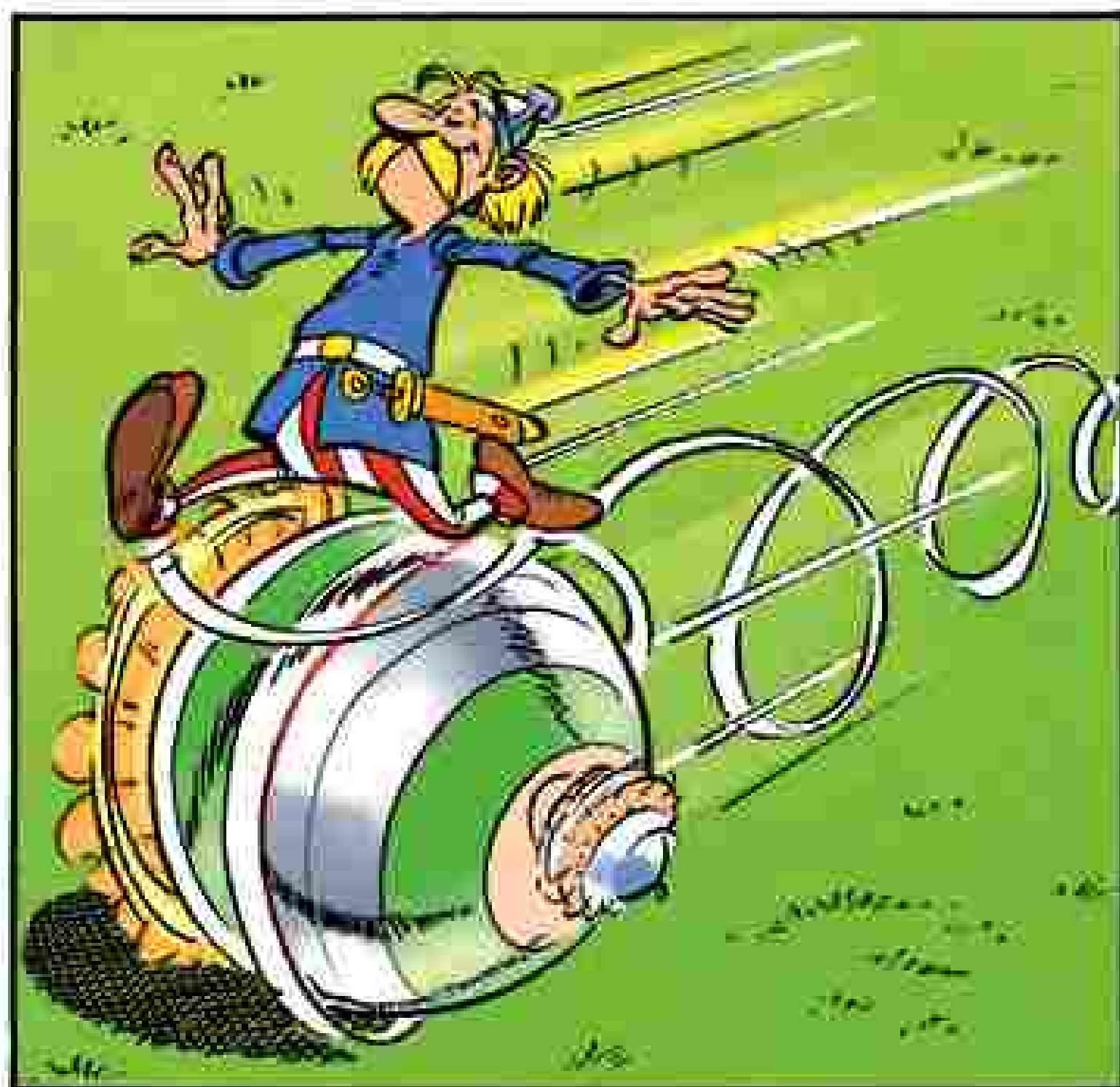
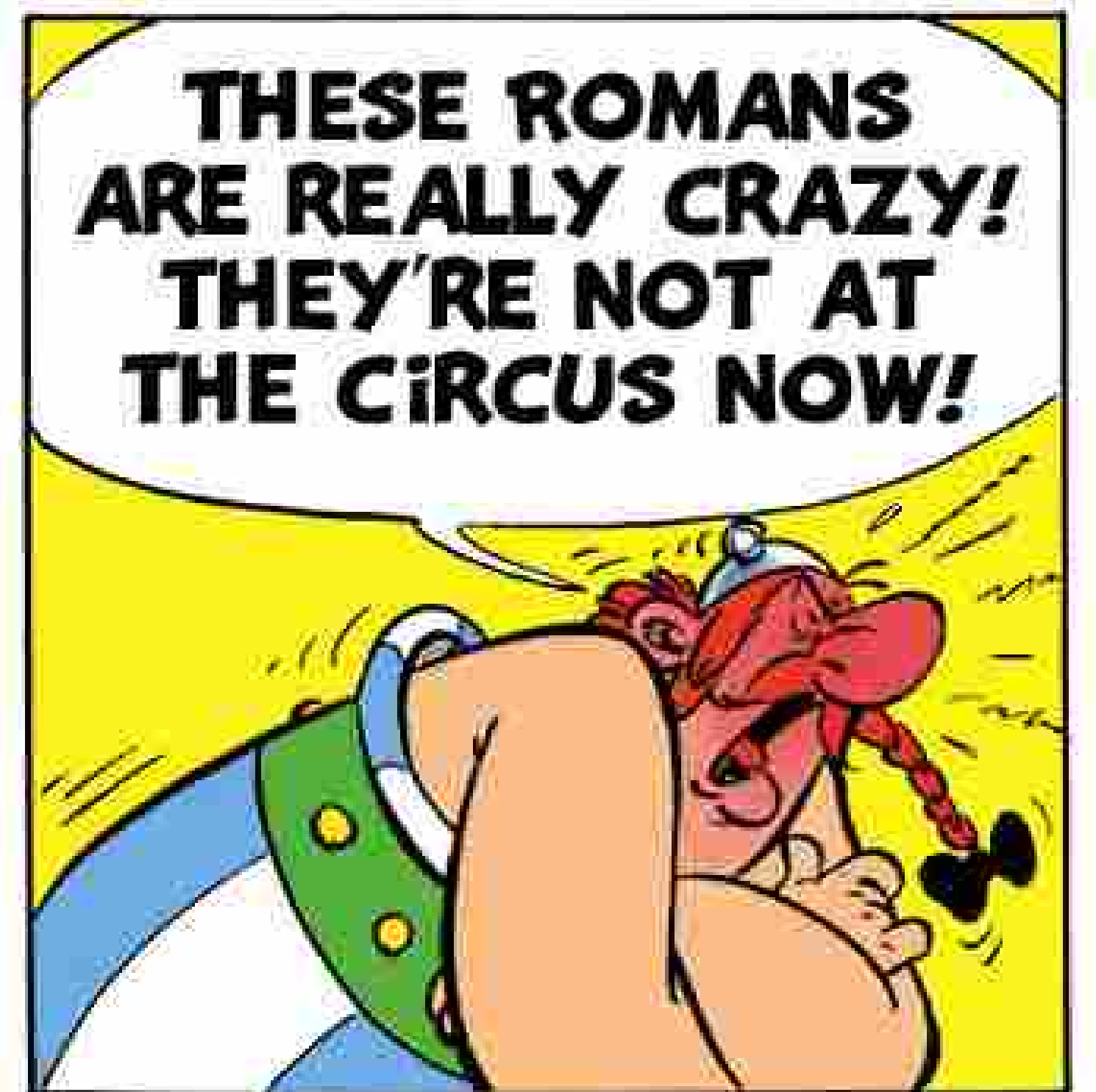
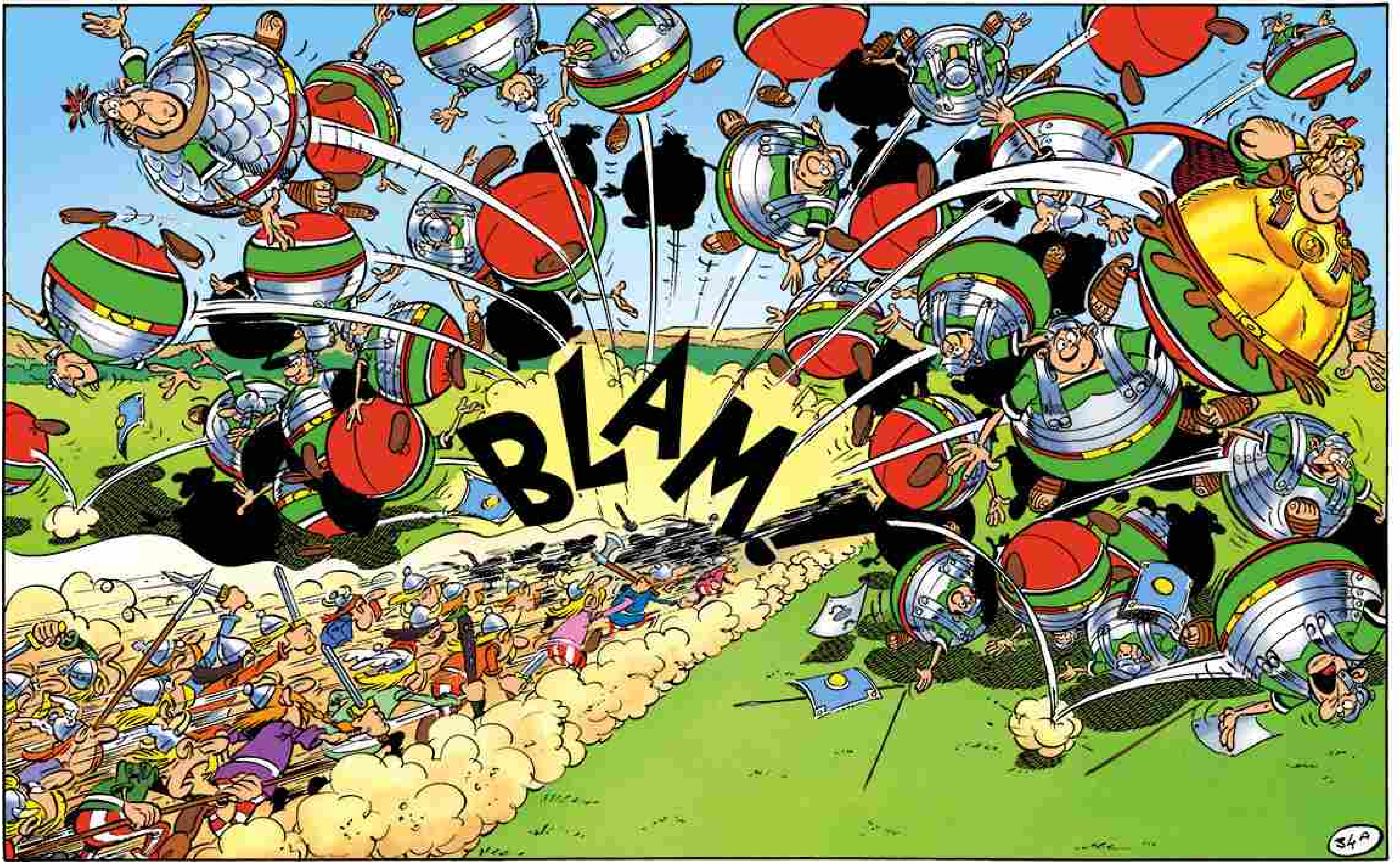
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE
TO SEE STARS INSIDE
A HUT BEFORE!

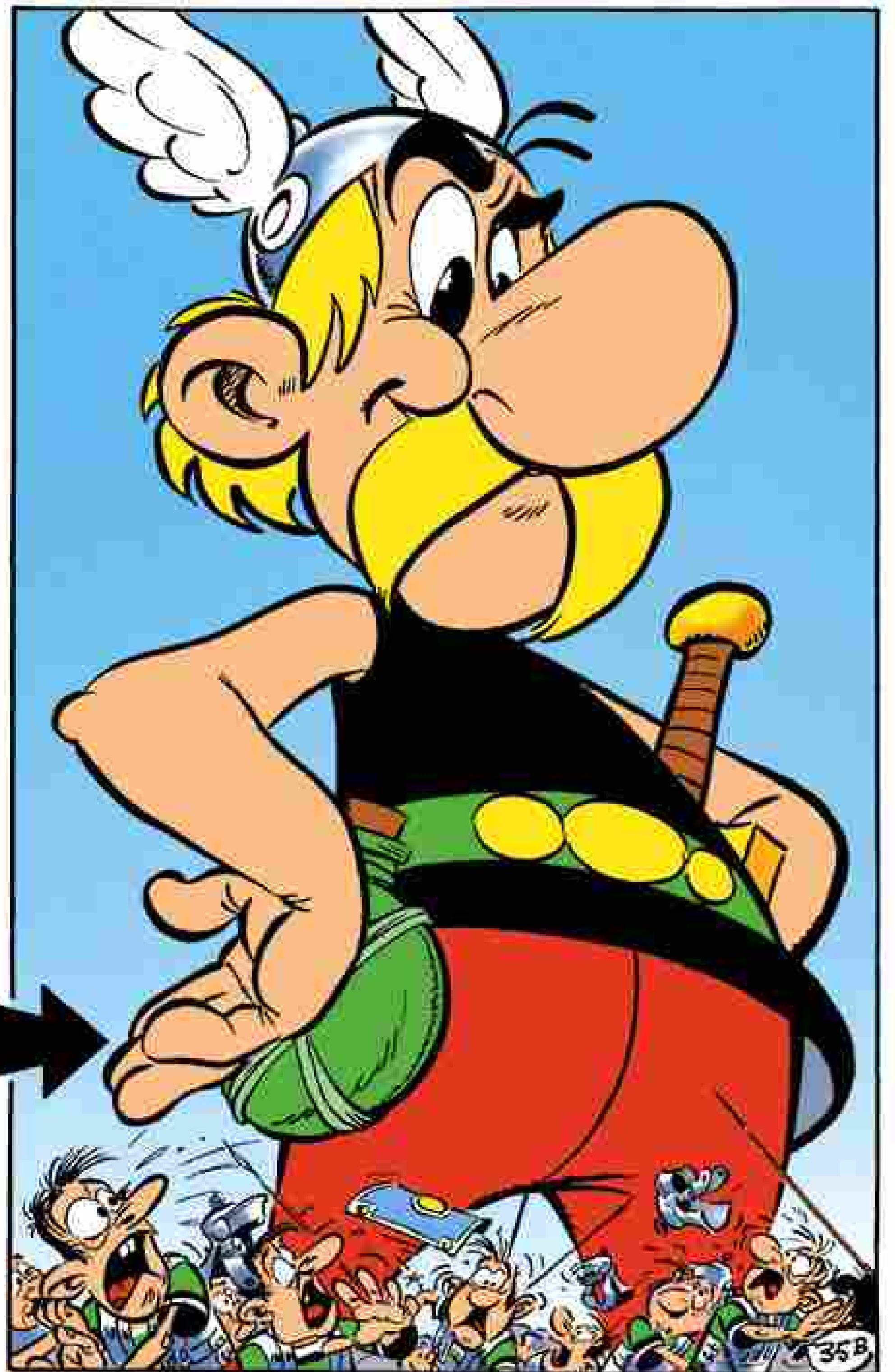
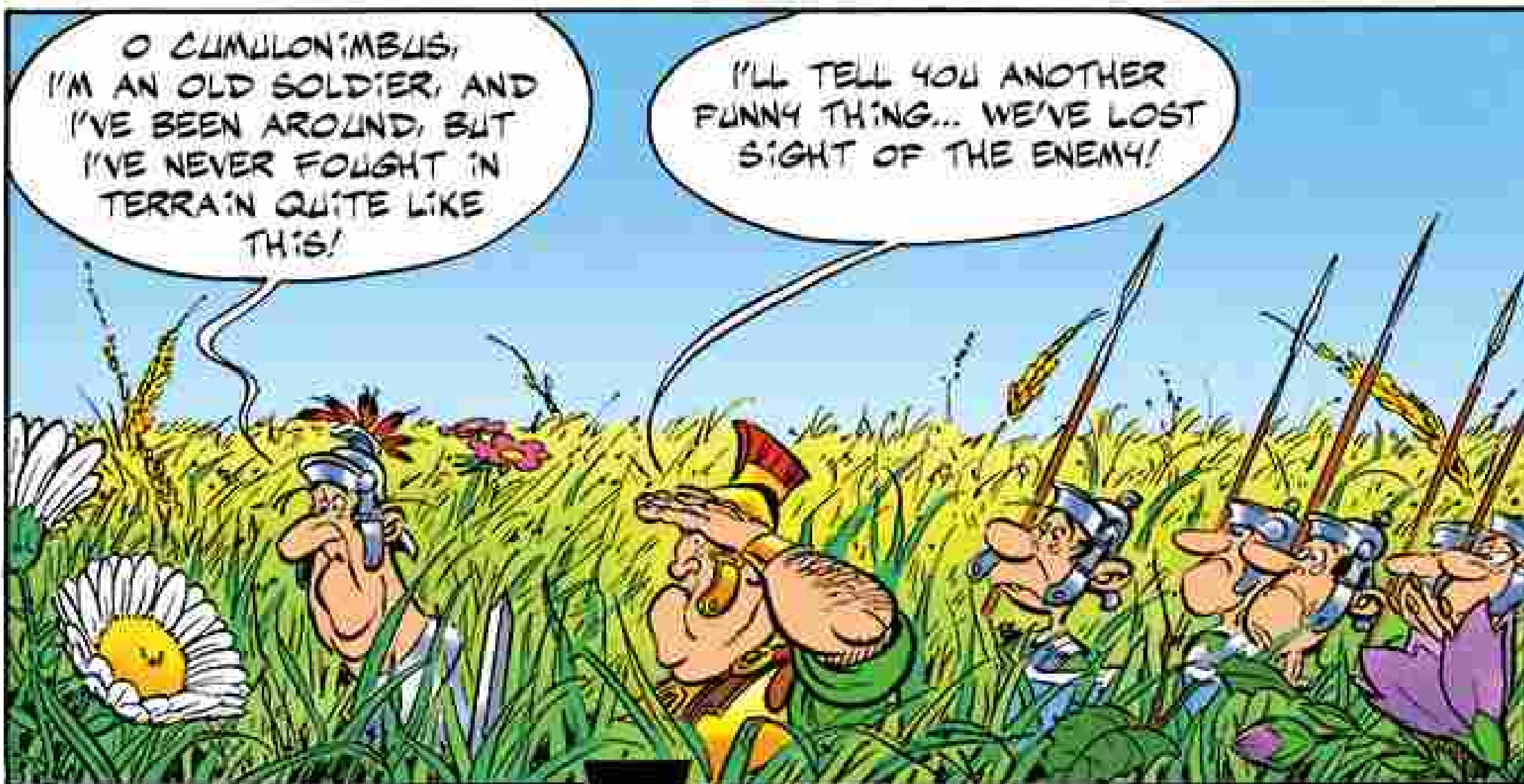
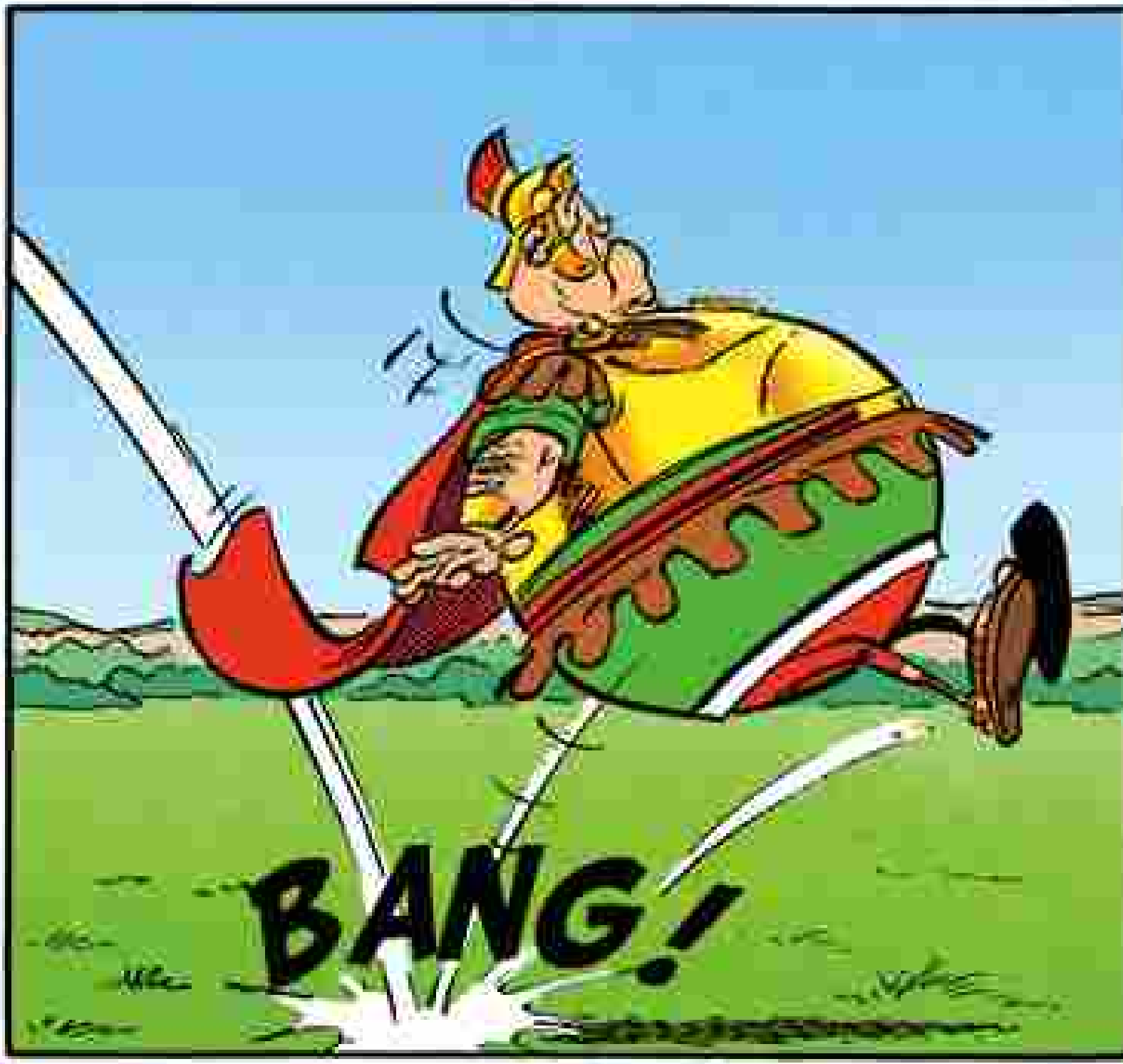
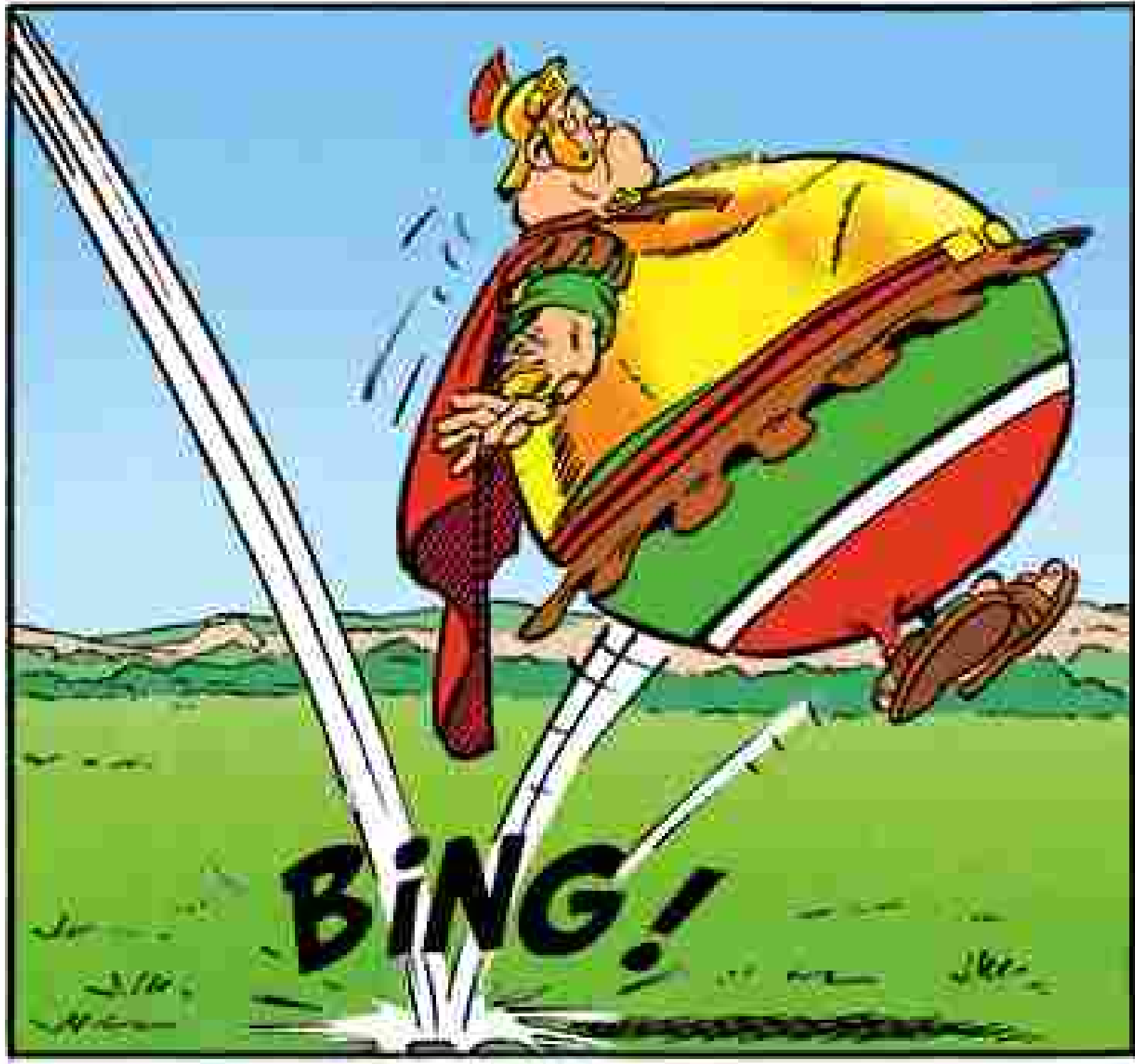
BONG!

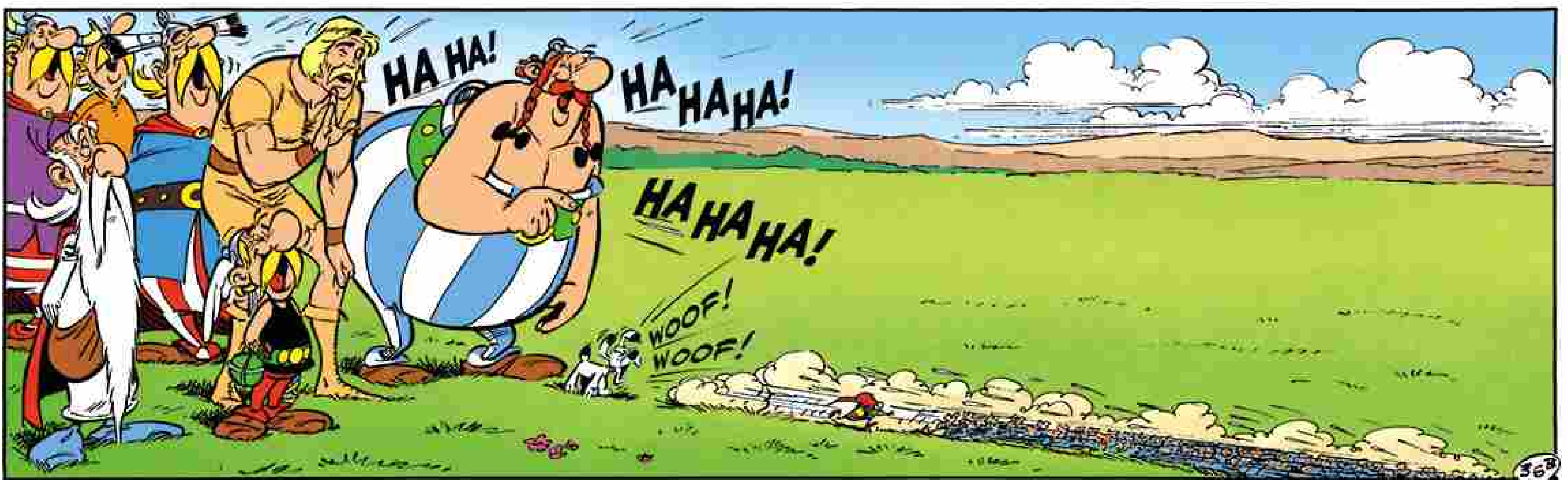
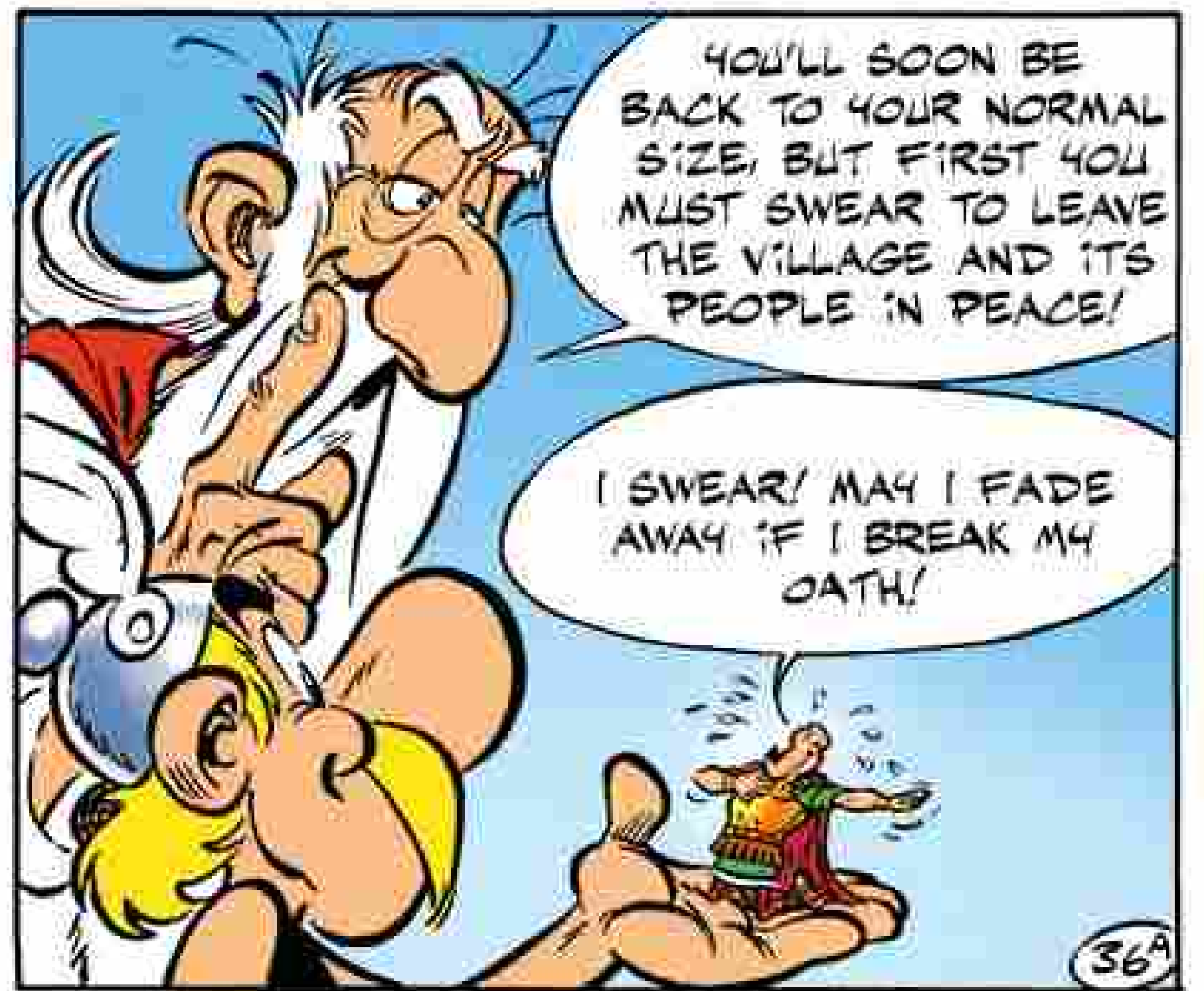
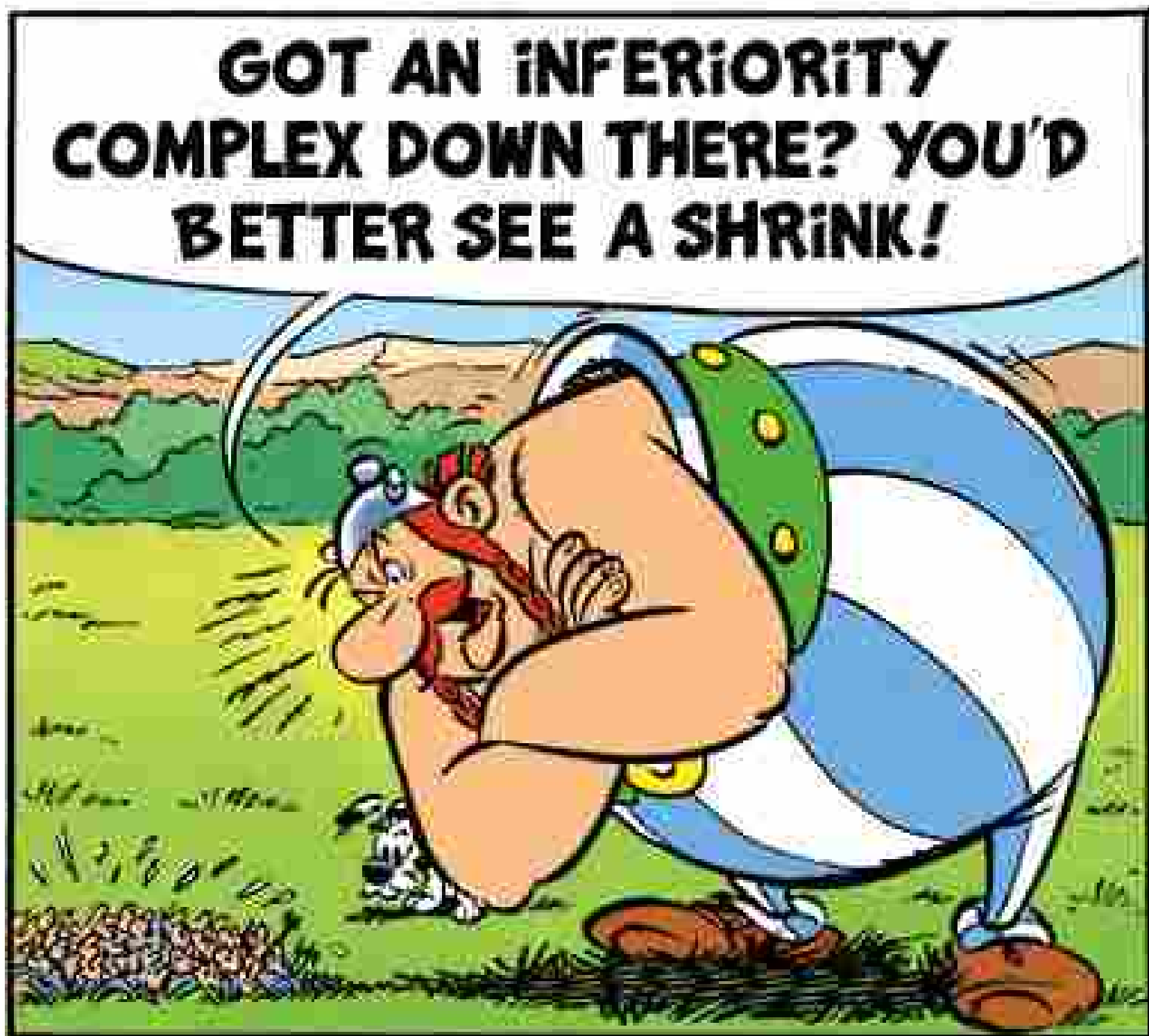
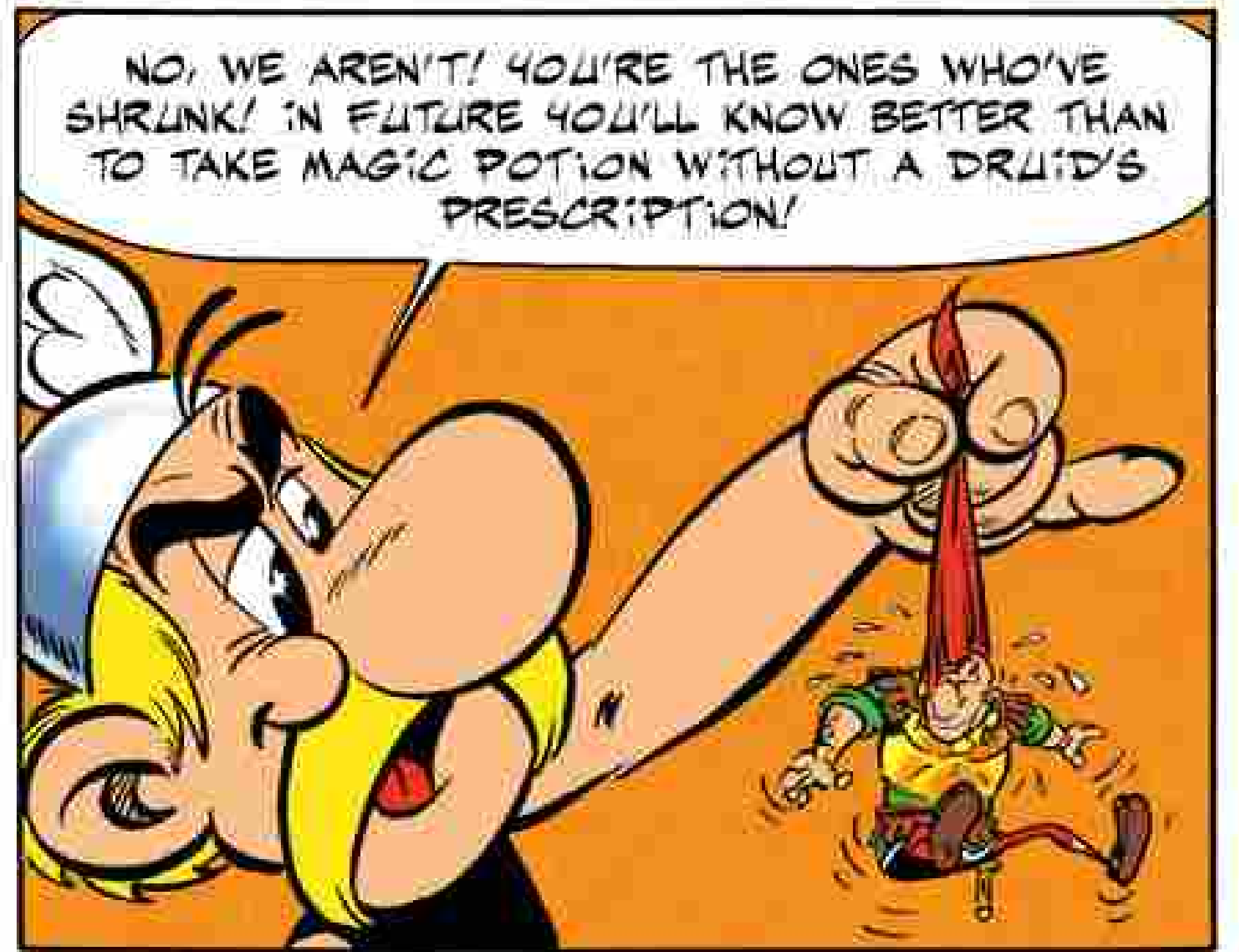
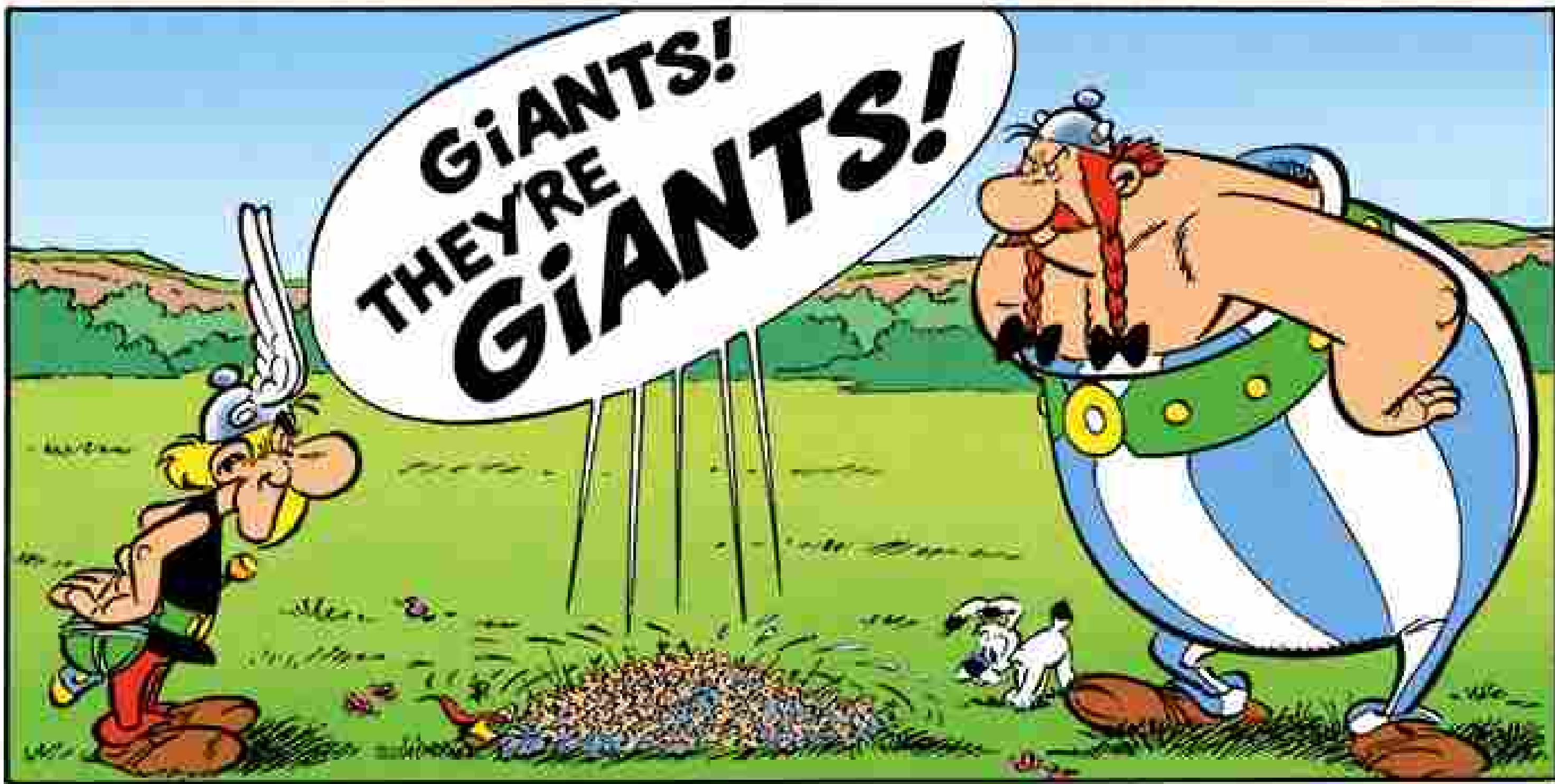


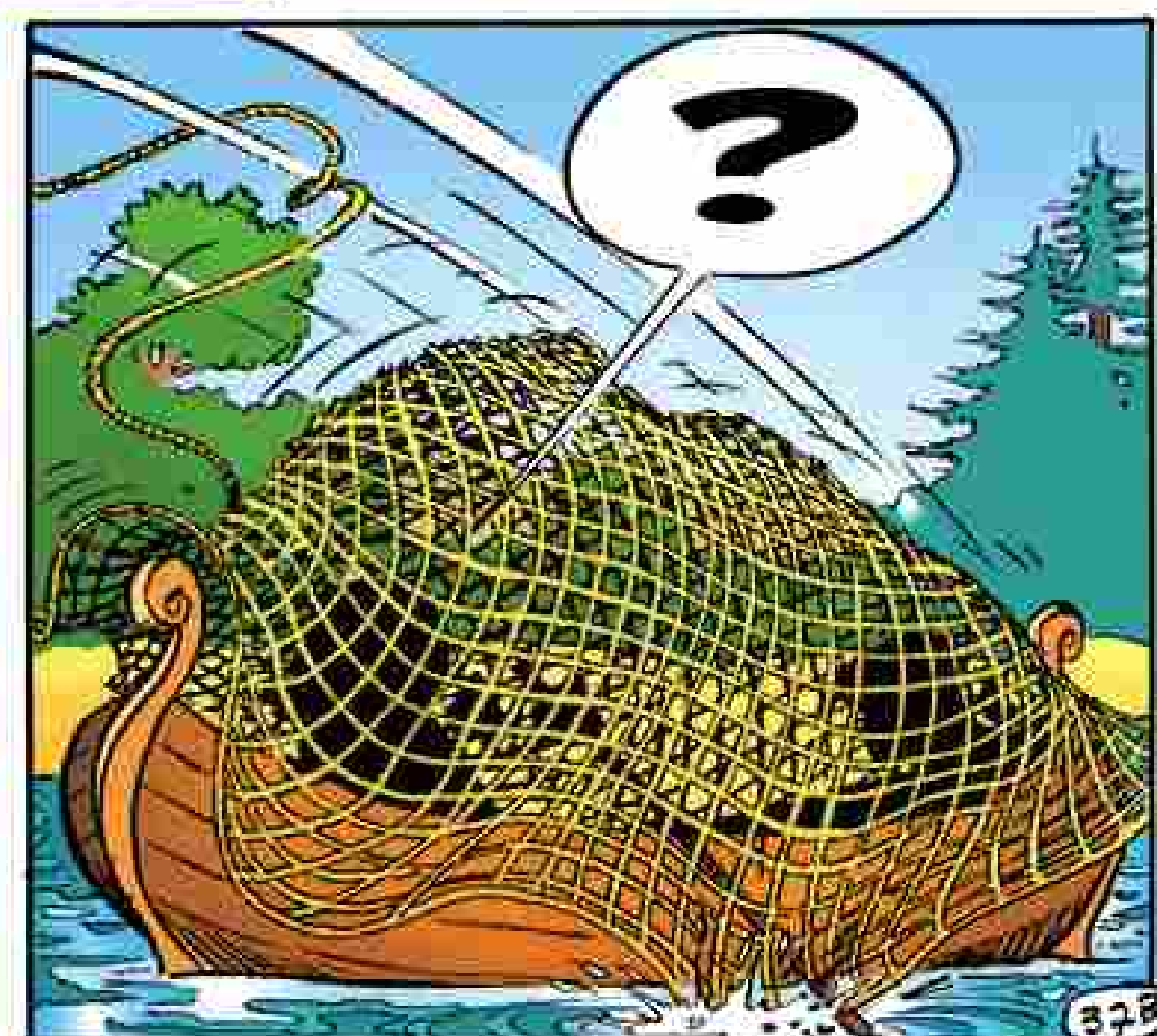
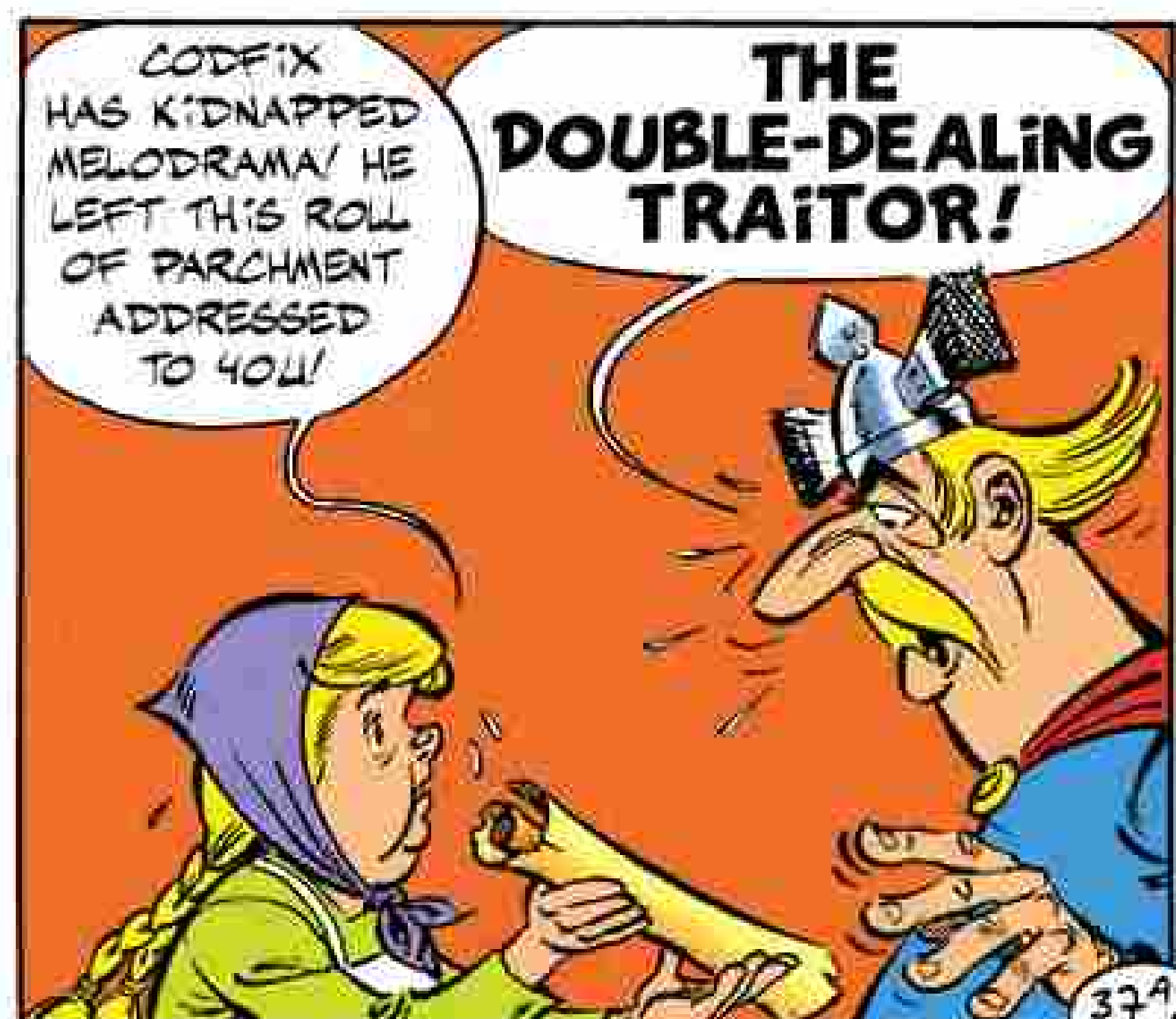


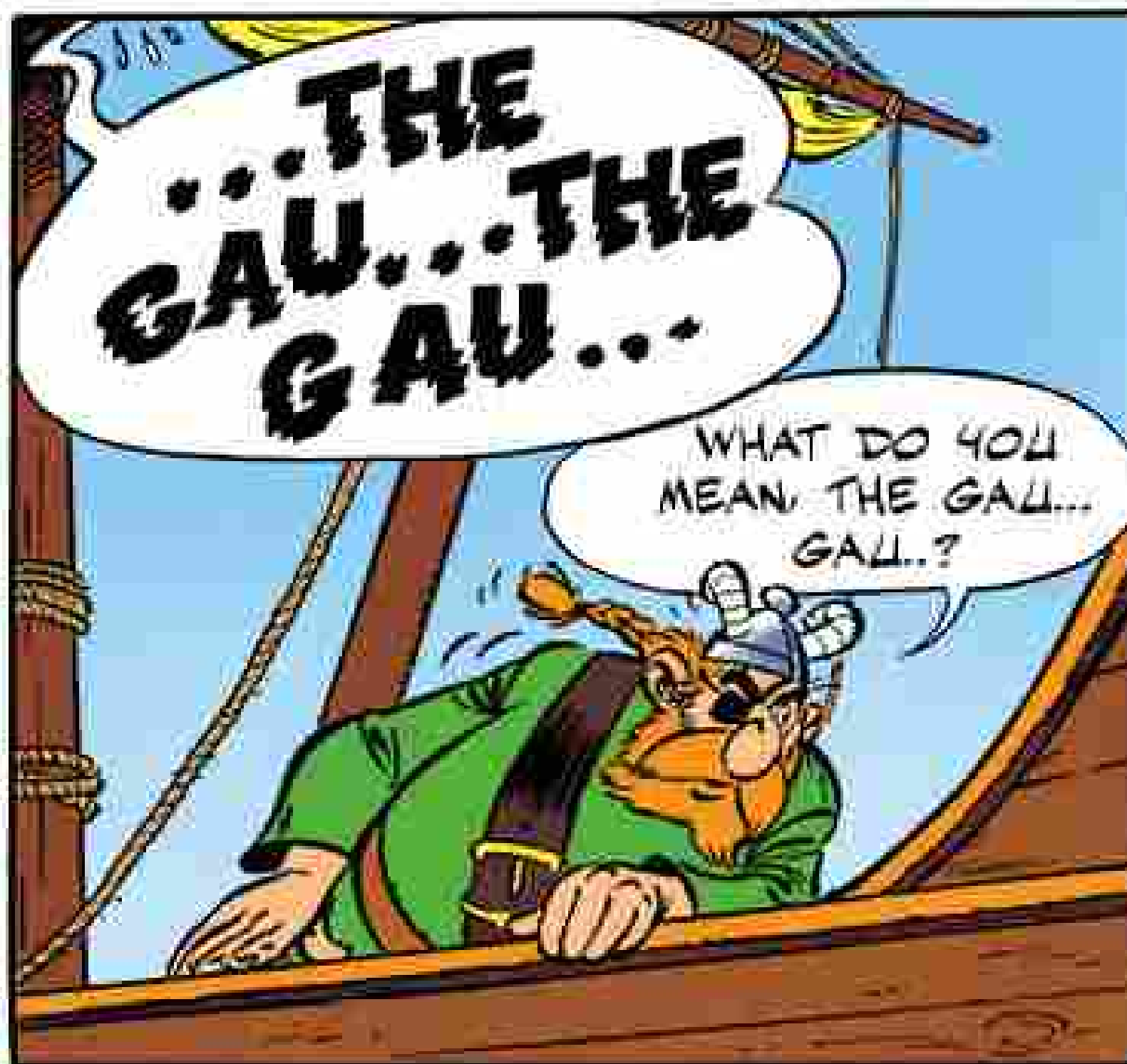
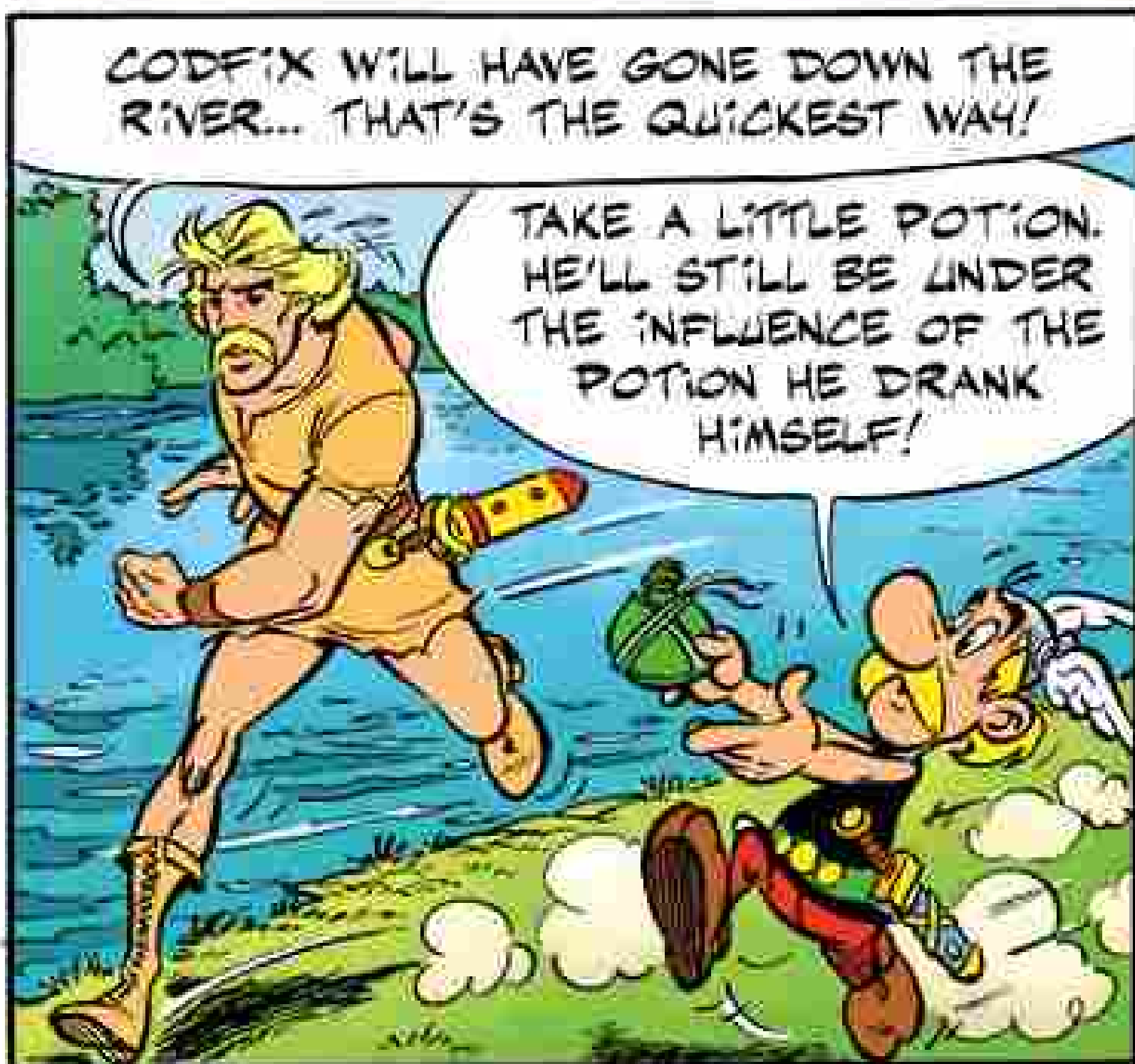
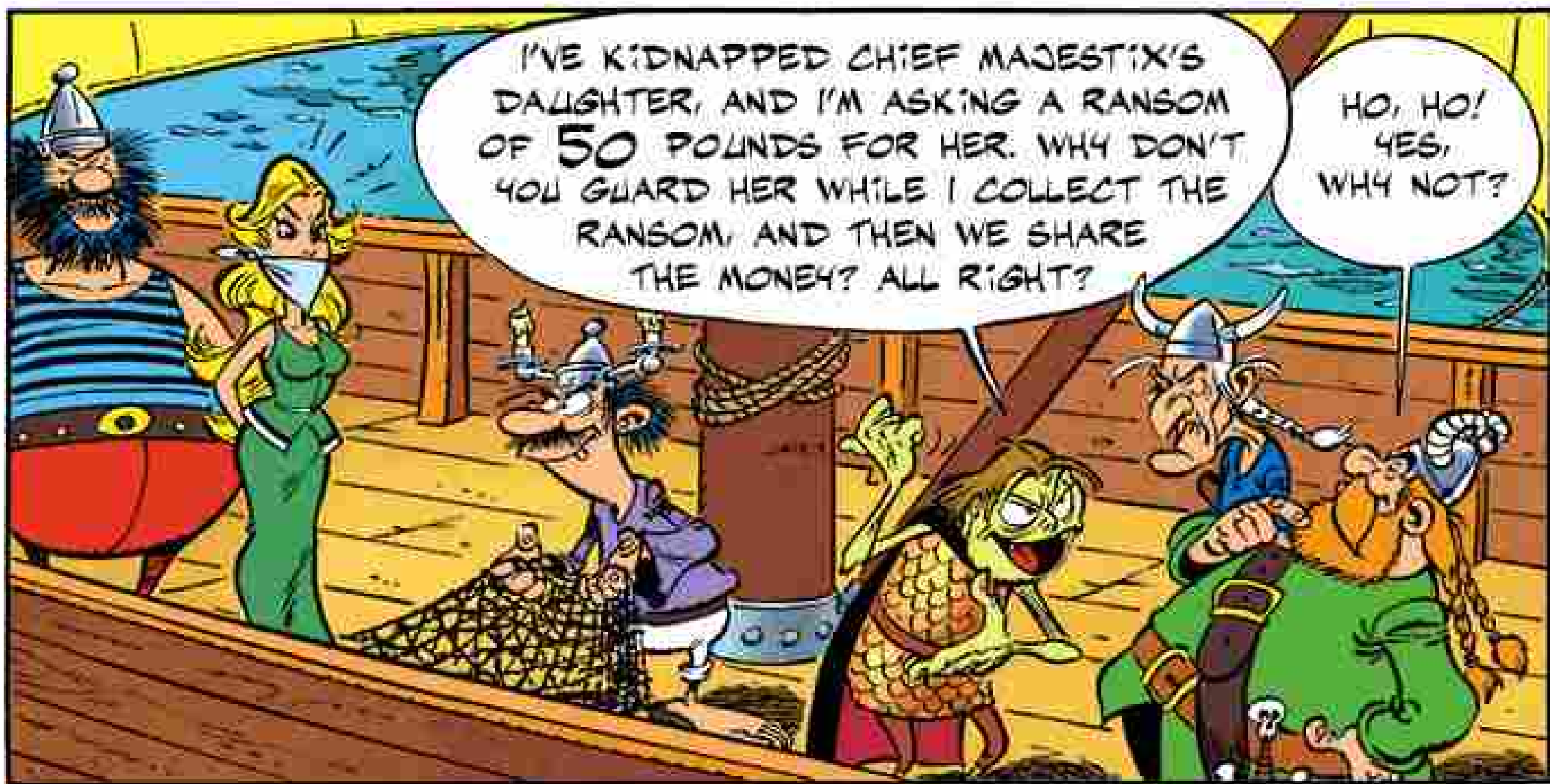
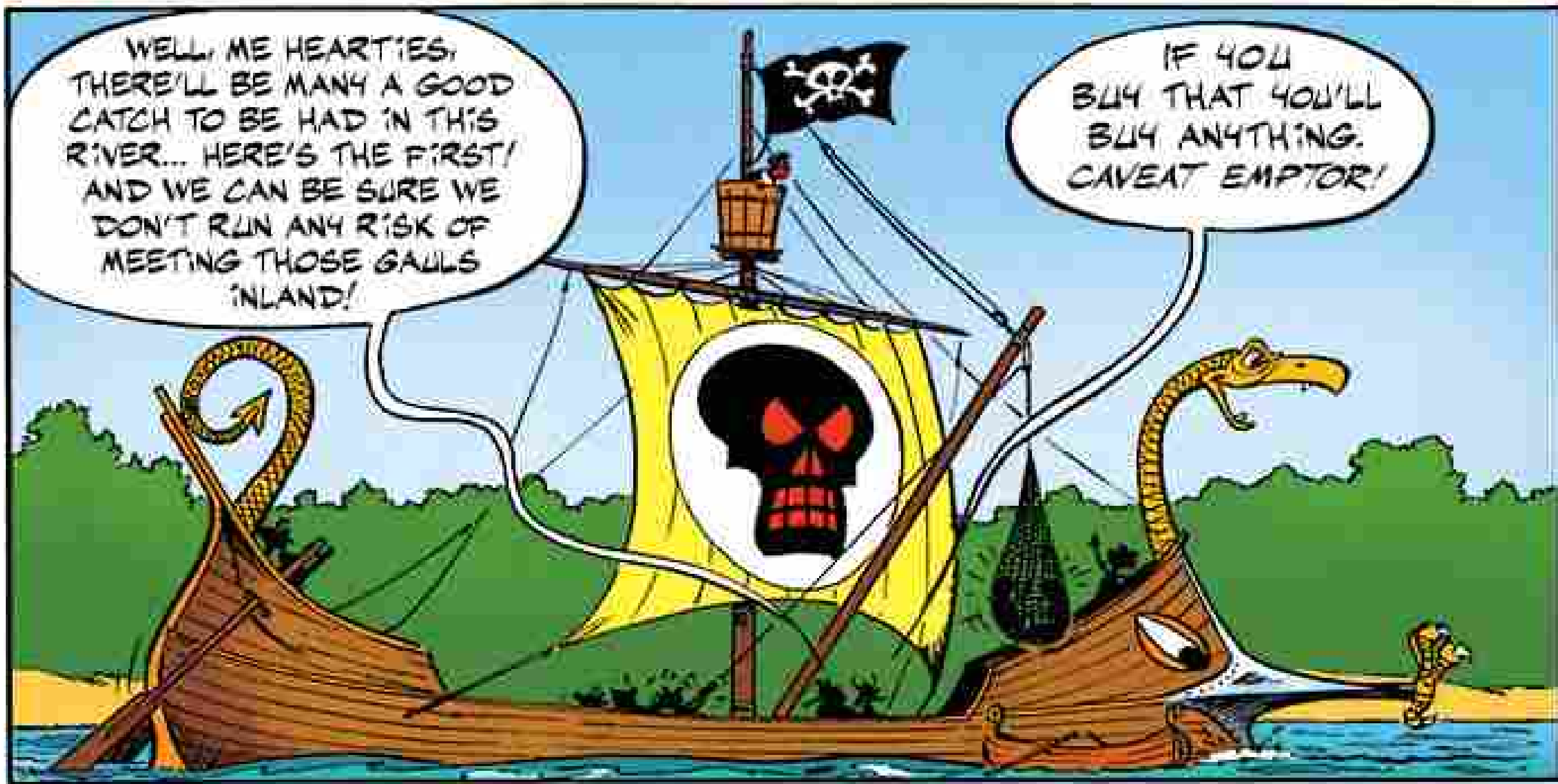


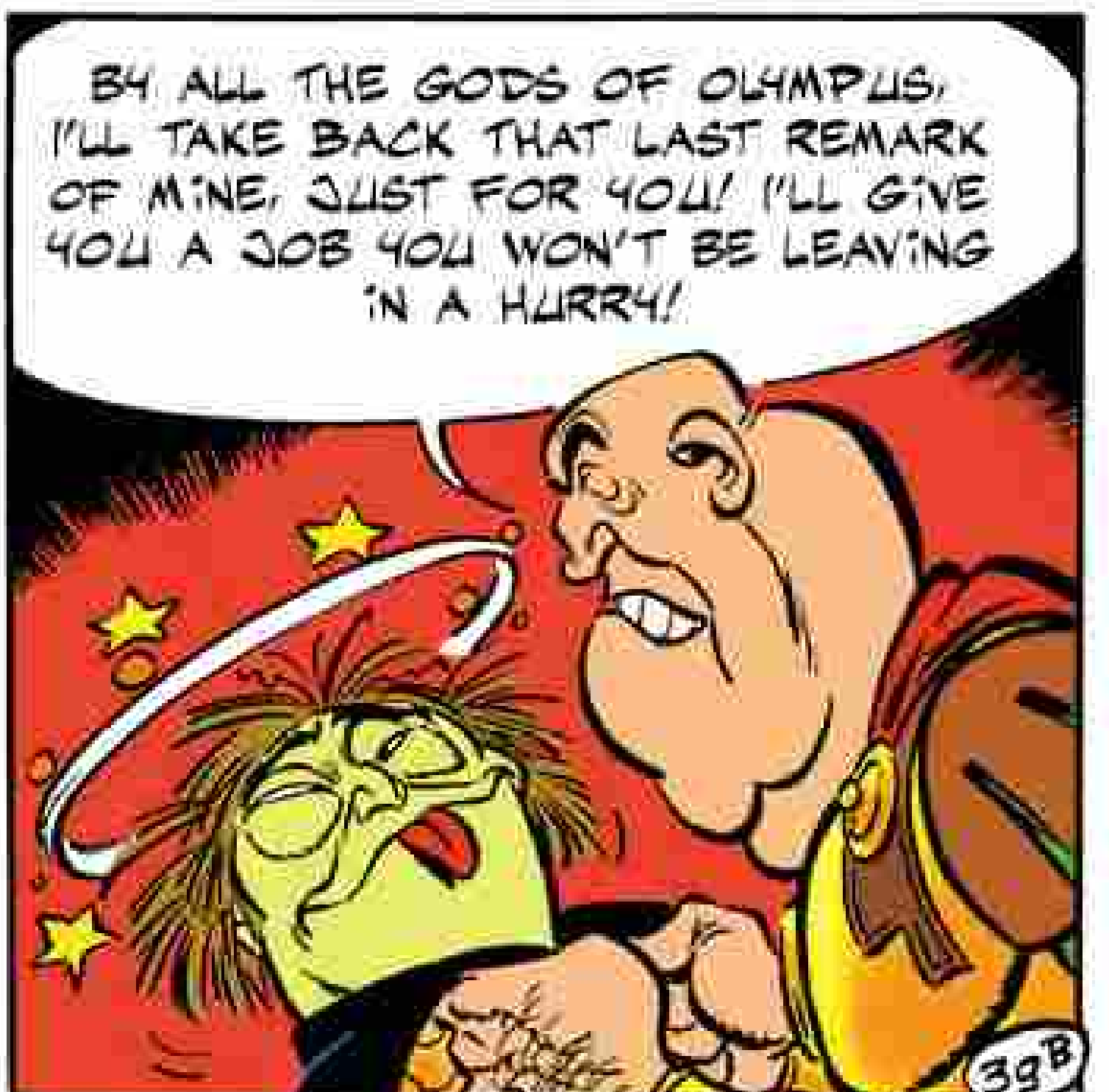


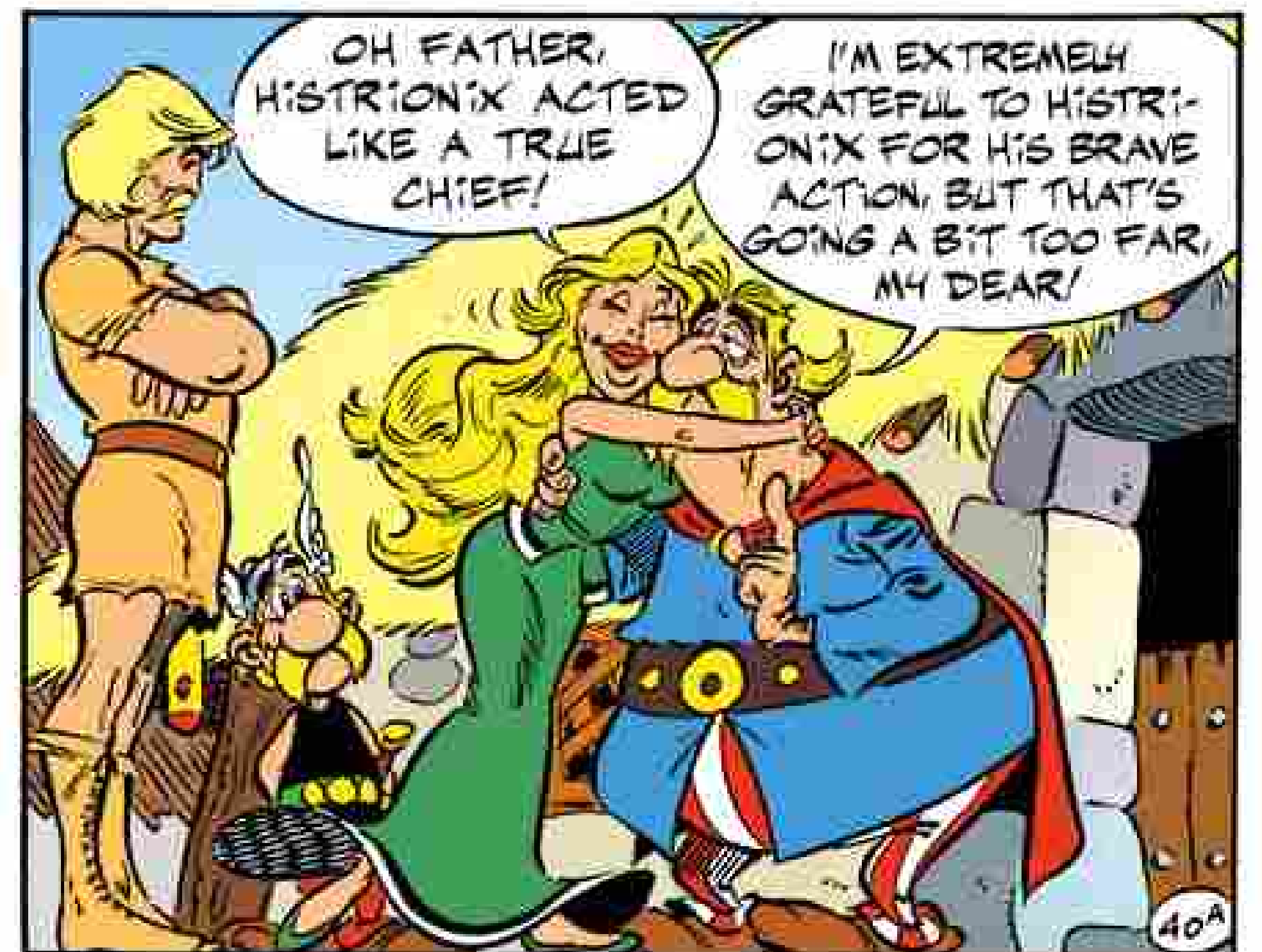


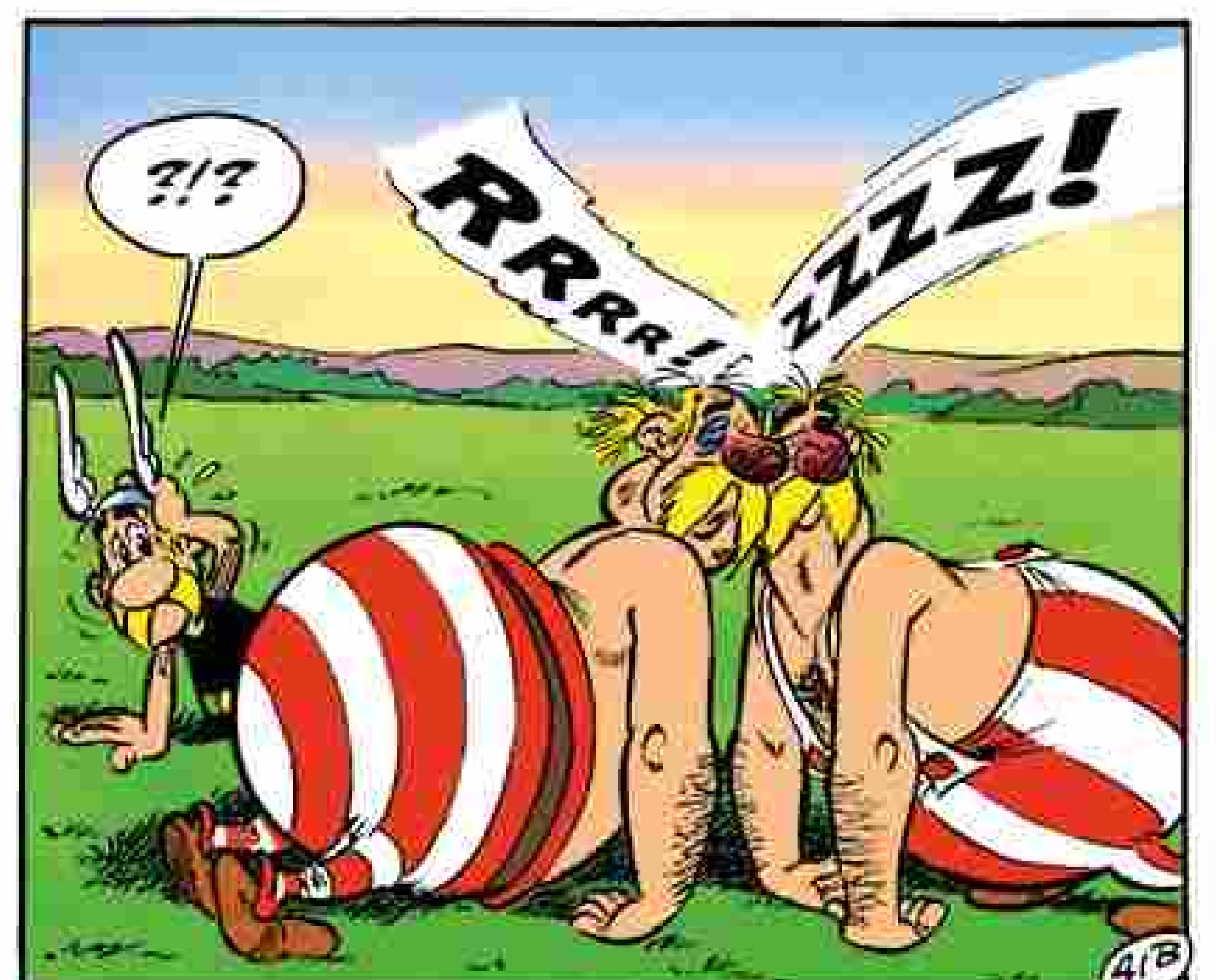
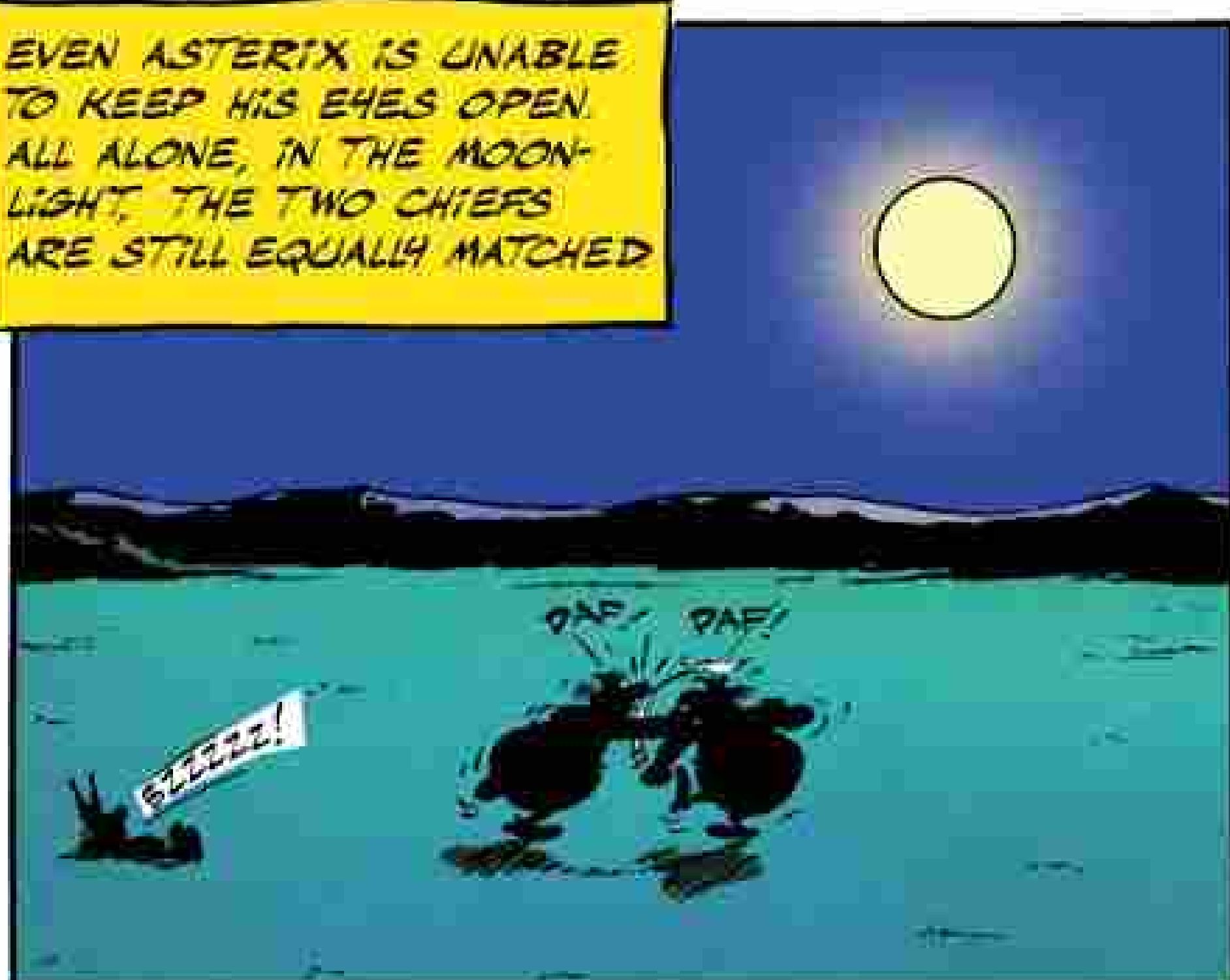
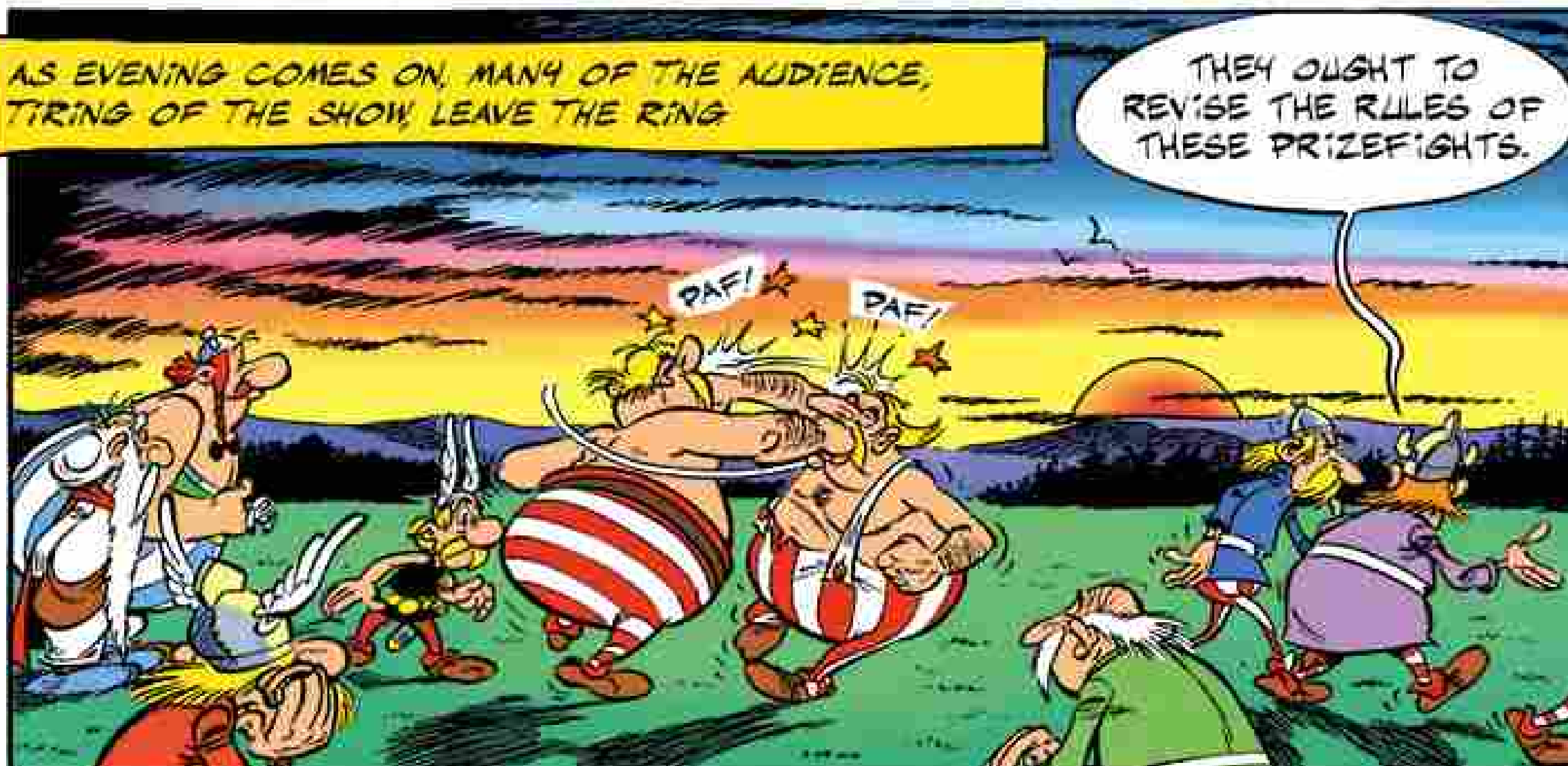












FRIENDS, FATE HAS DECIDED THE RESULT OF THE SINGLE COMBAT... NO ONE HAS WON AND NO ONE HAS LOST!

BUT YOU CAN HAVE A YOUNG, STRONG CHIEF IF YOU CHOOSE HISTRIONIX TO LEAD YOU! AND MELODRAMA WILL MAKE A WISE AND BEAUTIFUL CHIEF'S WIFE!

HURRAH! LONG LIVE HISTRIONIX! LONG LIVE MELODRAMA!

?!?

OH WELL, I RATHER THINK ALL WE CAN DO IS GET DRESSED AGAIN!

YOU SAID IT, FAT-FACE!

REUNITED AT LAST, UNDER THE RULE OF THEIR NEW CHIEF HISTRIONIX, THE GAULS OF THE VILLAGE DIVERT PART OF THE NEARBY RIVER INTO THE DITCH, WHICH NO LONGER SERVES ANY USEFUL PURPOSE, AND NOW THERE IS NO PART OF THE RIGHT OR PART OF THE LEFT, ONLY A RIGHT BANK AND A LEFT BANK, RUNNING WATER ON EVERYONE'S DOORSTEP AND FREEDOM FOR ALL THE VILLAGERS TO GO TO AND FRO.

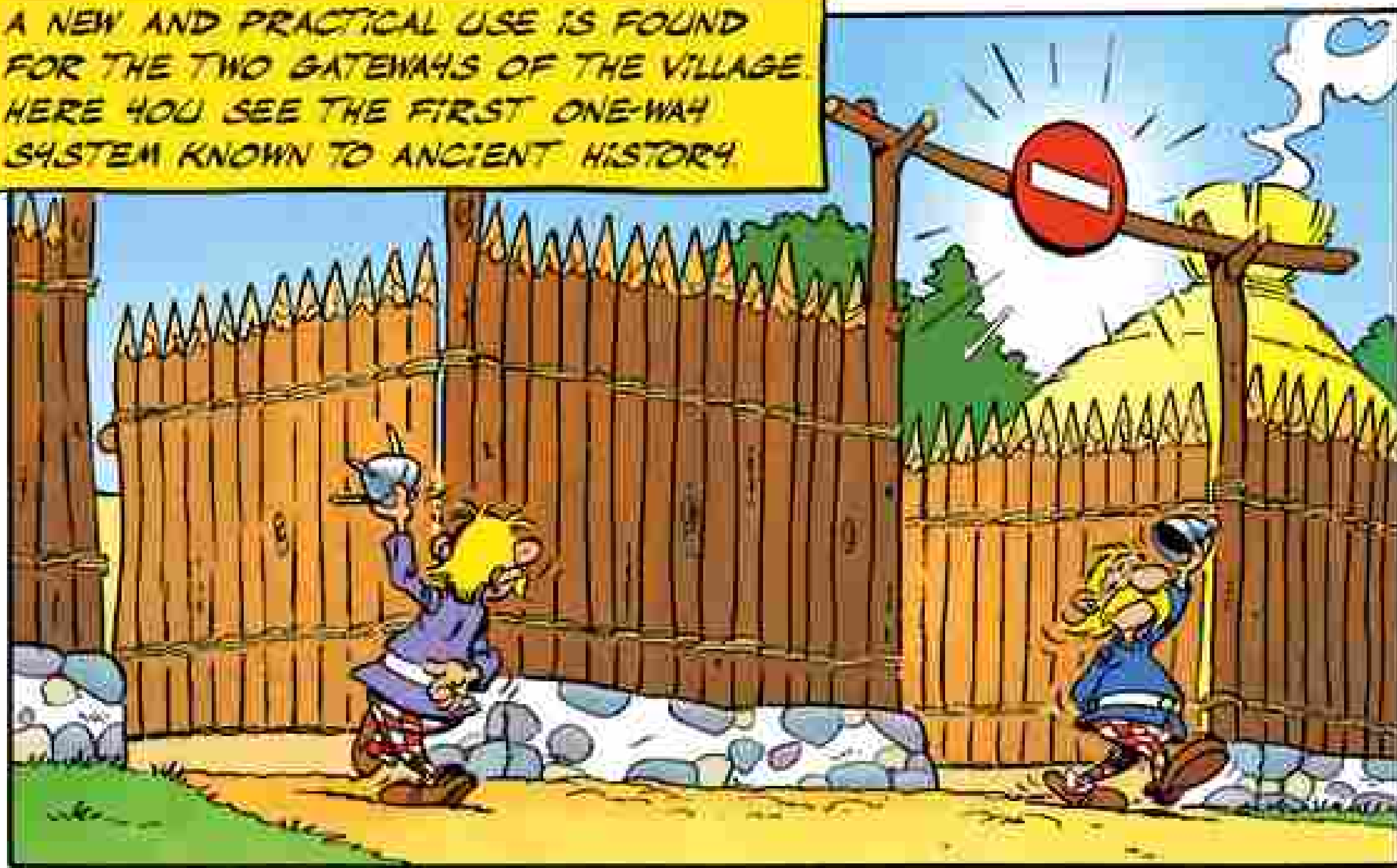
THE BACK AND FORTH BRIDGE

THE CHILDREN CAN STILL GATHER THE FRUITS OF OTHER PEOPLE'S LABOURS WITH IMPUNITY...

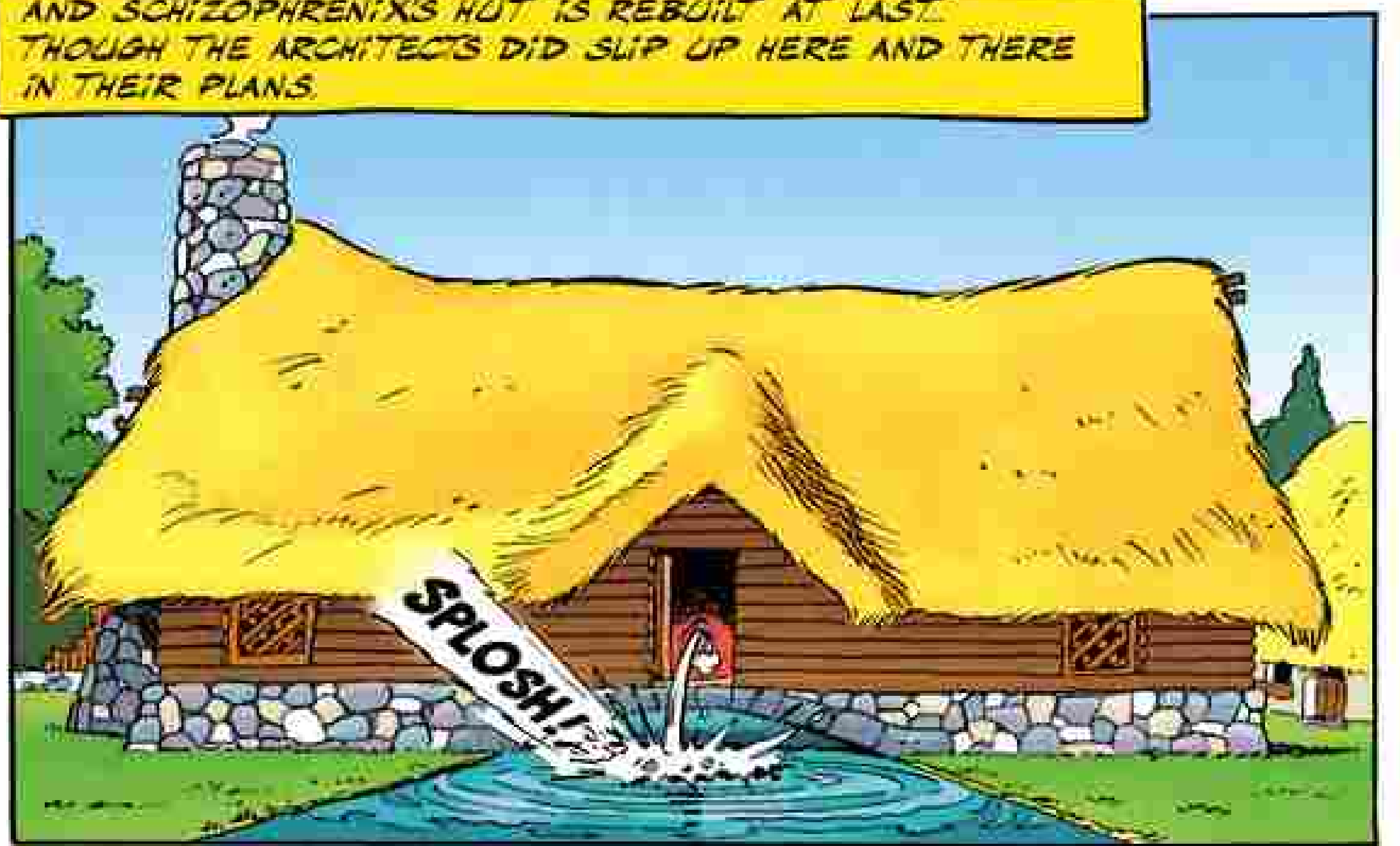
YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO DO THAT! THAT'S MY TREE!!!

SCRUNCH

A NEW AND PRACTICAL USE IS FOUND FOR THE TWO GATEWAYS OF THE VILLAGE. HERE YOU SEE THE FIRST ONE-WAY SYSTEM KNOWN TO ANCIENT HISTORY.



AND SCHIZOPHRENIX'S HUT IS REBUILT AT LAST. THOUGH THE ARCHITECTS DID SLIP UP HERE AND THERE IN THEIR PLANS.



ANY IDEA WHAT BECAME OF THAT SCOUNDREL CODFIX?

NO, BUT I SHOULD BE SURPRISED IF HE WAS STILL UP TO DIRTY WORK.

SURE ENOUGH, IN THE ROMAN CAMP.



WELL, SLAVE, HAVE YOU DONE THOSE VEGETABLES YET?

AND THE LAUNDRY? AND DON'T FORGET THE IRONING!

THE WEDDING OF MELODRAMA AND HISTRIONIX IS CELEBRATED AMIDST REJOICINGS FOR ALL AND BOARS FOR SOME.

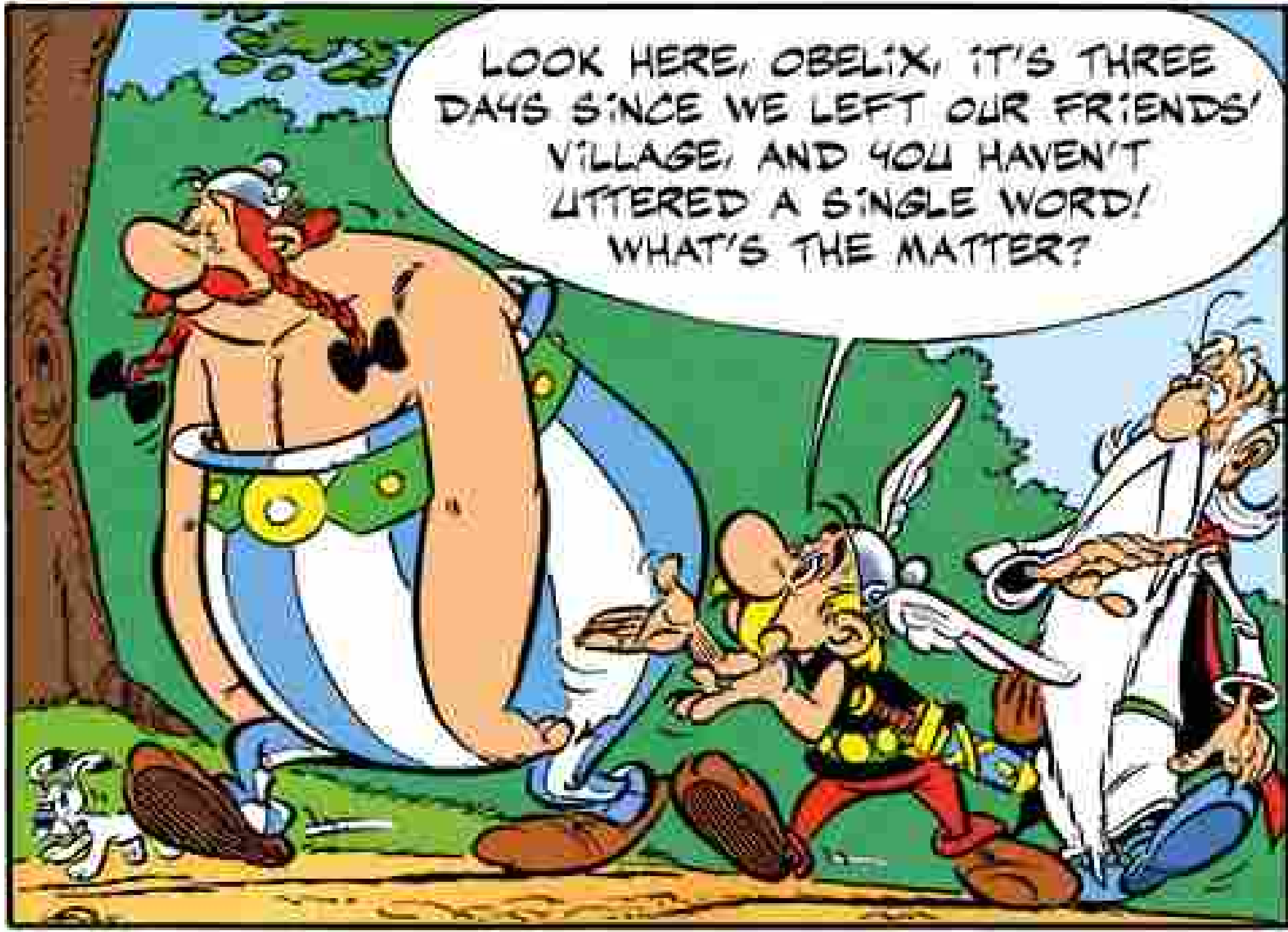


THE TIME COMES TO SAY GOODBYE.

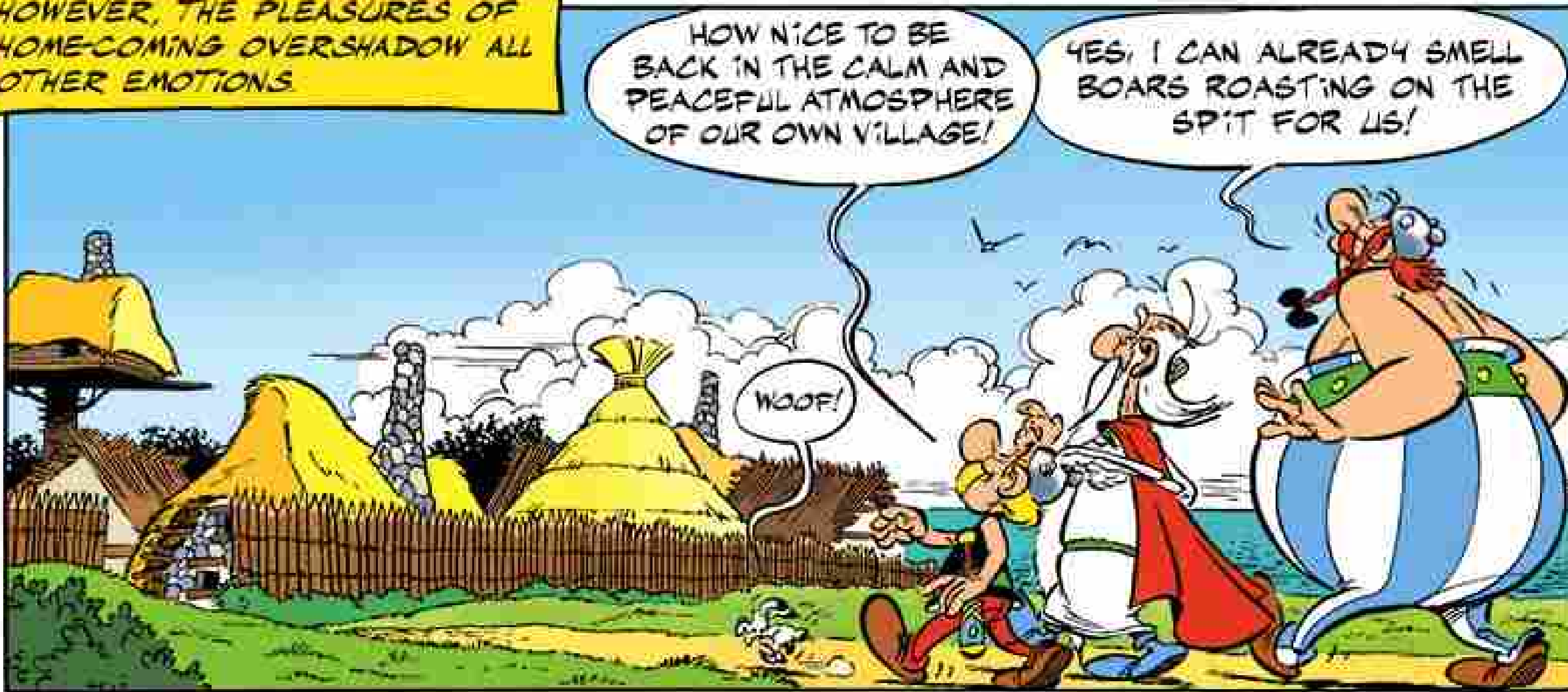
HOW CAN WE EVER THANK YOU FOR ALL WE OWE YOU?

YOU'RE HAPPY, AND THAT'S ALL THE THANKS WE NEED!





HOWEVER, THE PLEASURES OF HOME-COMING OVERSHADOW ALL OTHER EMOTIONS







I FEEL
A BIT WEAK,
GETAFIX ...

NO, OBELIX! YOU
ARE NOT HAVING ANY MAGIC
POTION! YOU KNOW VERY WELL
YOU FELL INTO THE CAULDRON
WHEN YOU WERE A BABY, AND
IT HAD A PERMANENT
EFFECT ON YOU!

Can
there ever be
a happy ending for
star-crossed lovers
Melodrama and
Histrionix, whose
fathers are rival
chieftains of the same
village? The only hope
is to call in Asterix,
Obelix and Getafix to
sort out the feud, the
intriguing of the sinister
traitor Codfix, and the
military might of Rome.
Watch out for some interesting
new magic potions . . .

